

R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

# Asterix & OBELIX's BIRTHDAY

THE GOLDEN BOOK

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Albert UDERZO



-UDERZO. 2009.





HALF A CENTURY! THAT MIGHT SEEM A LONG TIME TO ORDINARY PEOPLE. ONLY THE HEROES OF STORIES, IN THE CINEMA, THE THEATRE, LITERATURE - OR EVEN IN STRIP CARTOONS, OUR SUBJECT HERE - ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE THE PASSING OF TIME WITHOUT A WRINKLE, AND CHEERFULLY CONSIDER THIS PHENOMENON PERFECTLY NORMAL. IT'S OBVIOUS, OF COURSE, THAT THEY OWE THEIR LONG LIVES TO THE PUBLIC. ONLY THE PUBLIC DECIDES WHETHER HEROES LIVE OR DIE, AND IF THE PUBLIC DOESN'T LIKE YOU, YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT. LET'S SUPPOSE, JUST FOR A CHANGE, THAT ASTERIX AND HIS FRIENDS FEEL THE WEIGHT OF THE YEARS LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. LET'S IMAGINE THAT LIKE THE AUTHOR OF THESE LINES THEY ARE NOW FIFTY YEARS OLDER. WE COULD FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF SHAPE THEY'RE IN, PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY ... SO OFF WE GO TO THE VILLAGE WHERE, WE ASSUME, THE INDOMITABLE GAULS ARE STILL HOLDING OUT AGAINST THE ROMAN INVADERS.

IT HAS TO BE ADMITTED THAT, IN THE YEAR AD, THE FENCE AROUND THE GAULISH VILLAGE HAS NOT HELD OUT TOO WELL AGAINST THE RAVAGES OF TIME ...



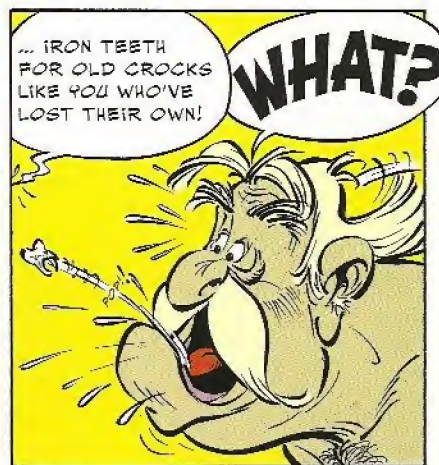
ALL THE SAME ...

FULLIAUTOMATIX & SON

HEY, THONNY-BOY, WHAT'TH THAT YOU'RE MAKING?



PUSH OFF, DAD. I'VE JUST INVENTED ...



... IRON TEETH FOR OLD CROCKS LIKE YOU WHO'VE LOST THEIR OWN!

WHAT?



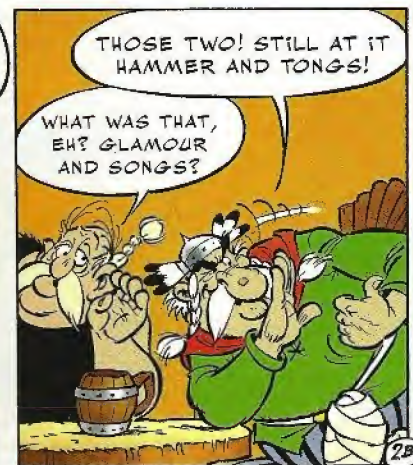
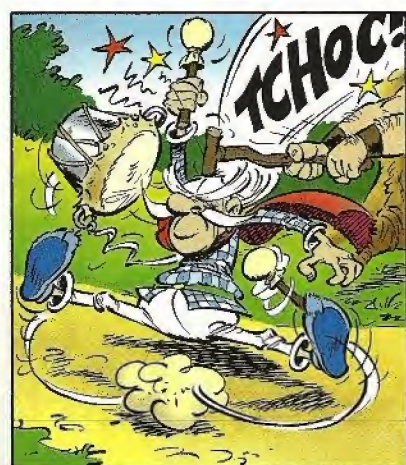
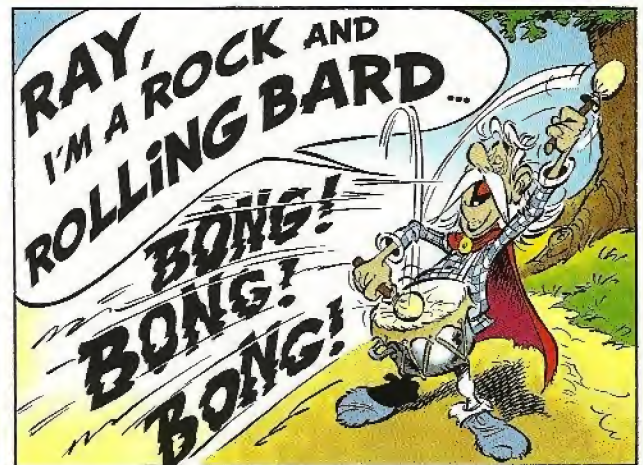
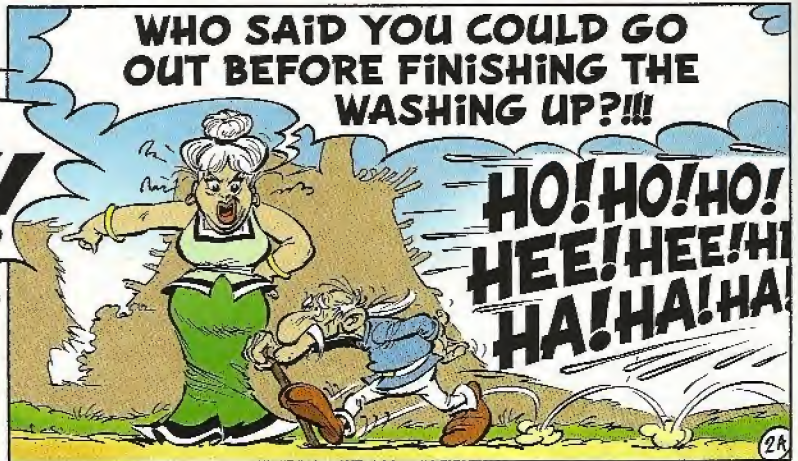
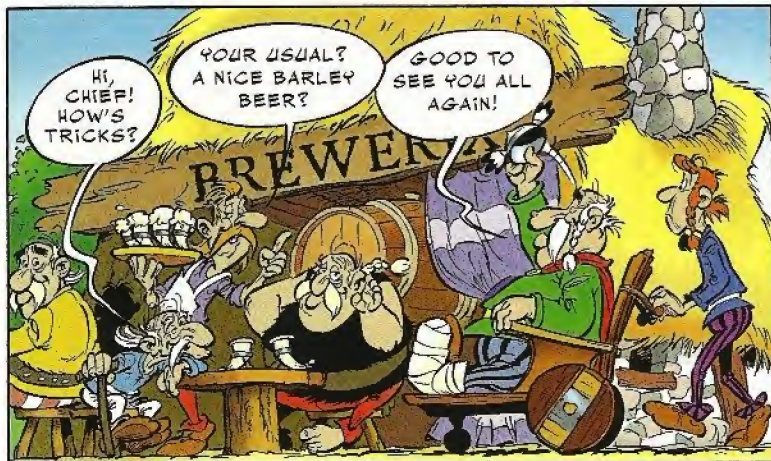
TAKE YOUR DAD FOR A LITTLE WALK, SON. IT'LL DO HIS GOUT GOOD.

OKAY, MA!

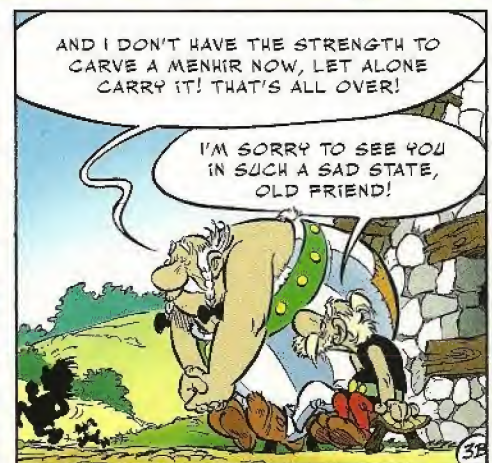
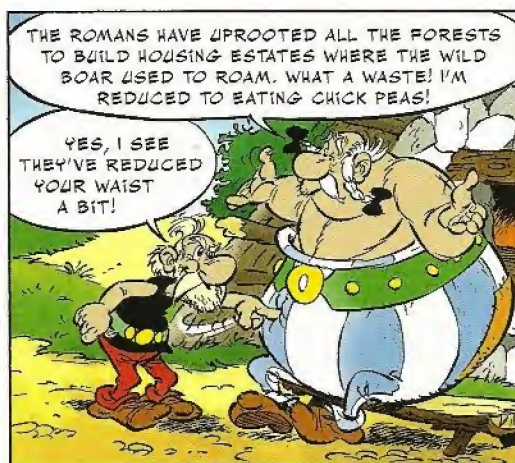
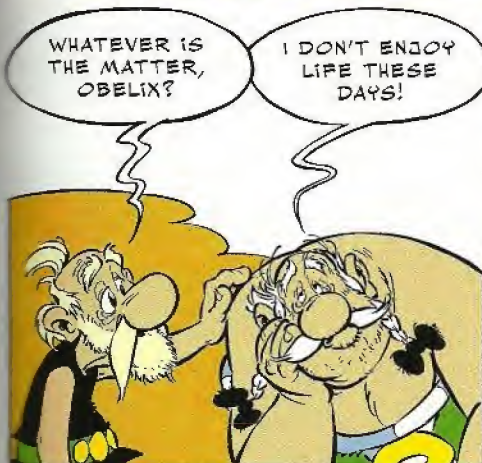
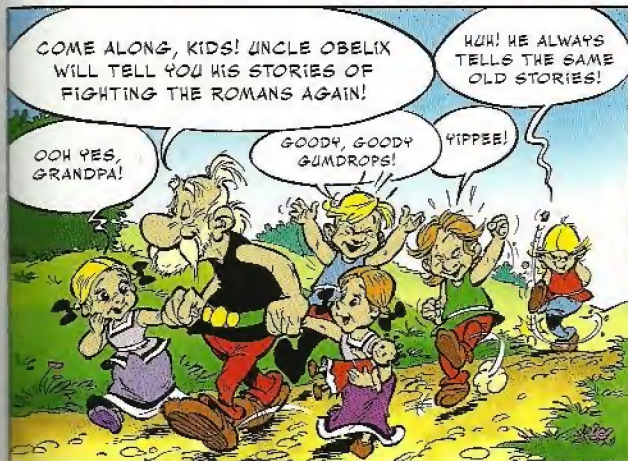
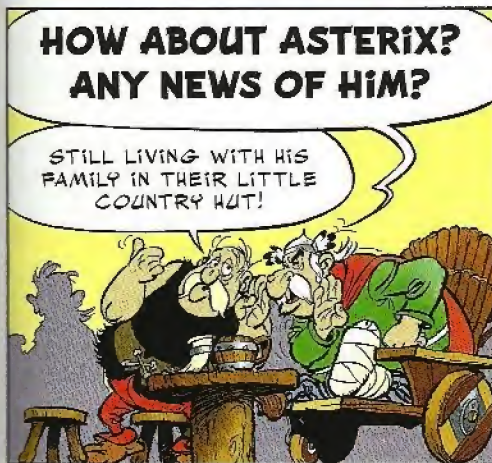
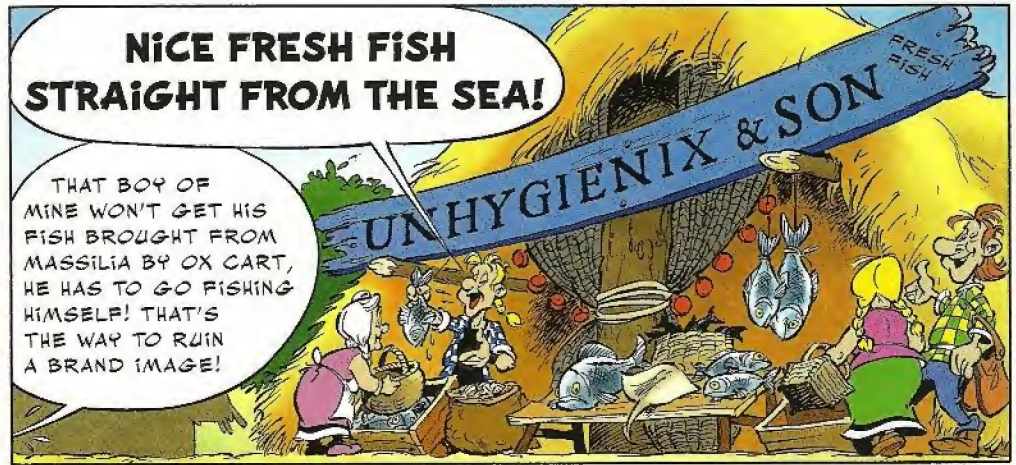


IT WORKED AGAIN, LADDIE! OFF TO THE BREWERIX FOR A JAR WITH MY OLD MATES!

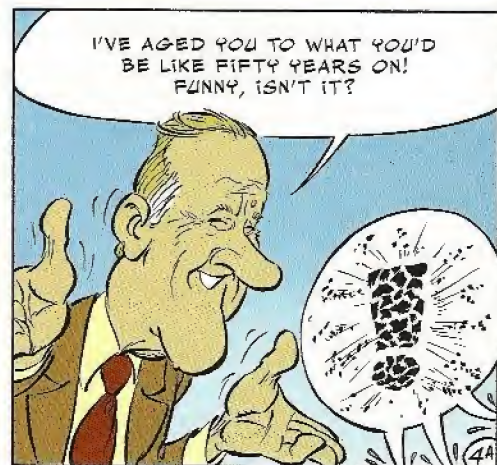










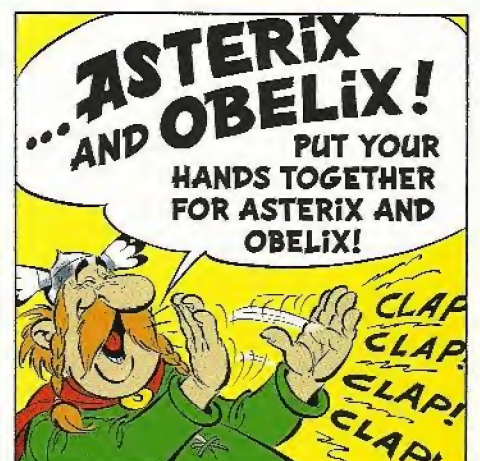
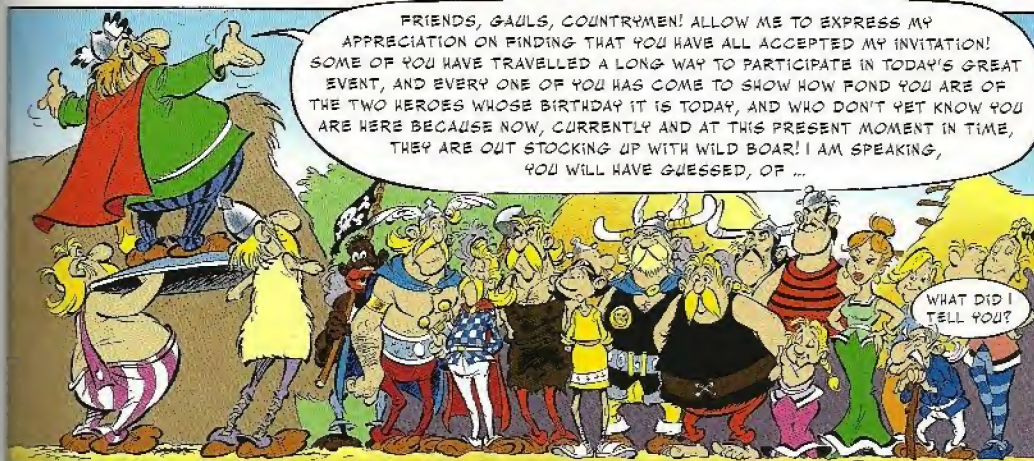


SO A LITTLE ARTWORK, AND WE'RE BACK IN THE GOLDEN AGE OF ASTERIX, THE YEAR 50 BC.

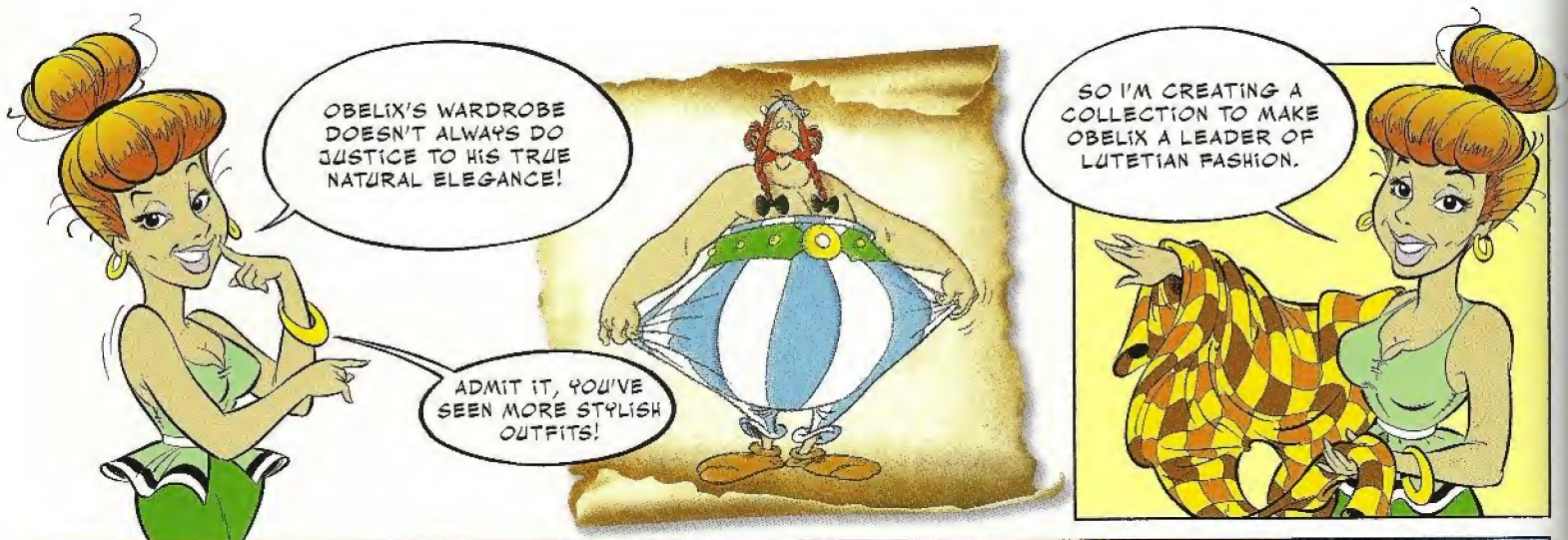




MEANWHILE, IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE ...







FASHION AND A GOOD PUNCH-UP ARE NOT INCOMPATIBLE: SPORTING WRISTBANDS, A WALRUS MOUSTACHE AND A PONYTAIL WILL MAKE A BIG IMPRESSION!



OBELIX MIGHT HAVE BEEN BORN TO WEAR A CLOAK. DRAPED OVER THE RIGHT SHOULDER, IT SUITS HIM.



THIS GENEROUSLY CUT TUNIC GRACEFULLY MOULDS ITSELF TO THE WINSOME CURVES OF OBELIX'S FIGURE.



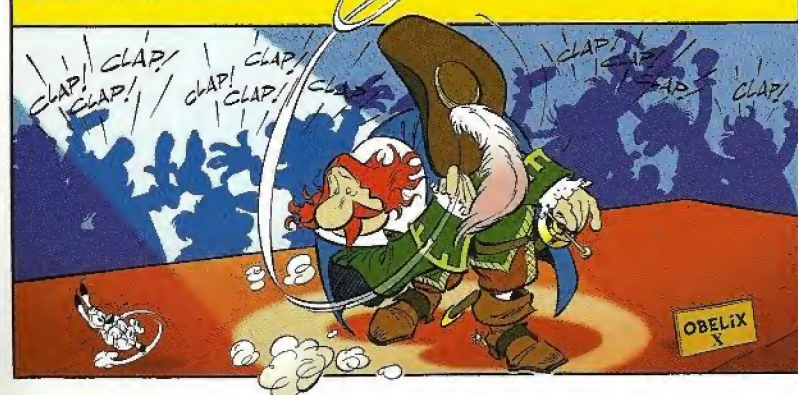
A TUNIC WITH A NECKLINE SLASHED TO THE WAIST, A FLARED SKIRT AND A SMALL CAPE ... THIS LITTLE NUMBER ... IS JUST MADE FOR OBELIX.



WELL CHOSEN ACCESSORIES MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE: AN EXTRA-WIDE RUFF FRAMES A BEAMING HANDKERCHIEF IS GRACEFULLY WAVED.



HATS OFF TO OBELIX! THIS PLUMED FELT HAT, TRIMMED WITH A PHEASANT FEATHER, GIVES HIM GREAT PRESENCE AS HE MAKES HIS BOW!



WITH A POWDERED WHITE WIG ON HIS HEAD, HIS HAIR WORN IN LITTLE ROLLS OVER HIS EARS AND TIED AT THE BACK, OBELIX REINVENTS TRADITIONAL GAULISH PLAITS!





FROCK COAT, TALL OPERA HAT, A CANE WITH AN ORNATE KNOB - ANTICLIMAX WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE OBELIX AS AN ANCIENT BRITISH GENTLEMAN.



LEATHER GLOVES WORN FOR DRIVING A CHARIOT ELEGANTLY, A POCKET HOURGLASS WITH A FOB ... AND OBELIX EXCHANGES STRIPES FOR SOME VERY CLASSY CHECKED BREECHES!



IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT, IN THIS UNDERSTATED YET ELEGANT SUIT, OBELIX MIGHT SET A FASHION FOR BERETS AMONG THE GAULS!



OBELIX IN ARTISTIC MODE: A BAGGY SMOCK TO PROTECT HIS CLOTHES FROM PAINT SO THAT HE CAN TO EXPRESS HIMSELF FREELY. THIS COULD REVOLUTIONIZE THE ART OF OUR TIMES!



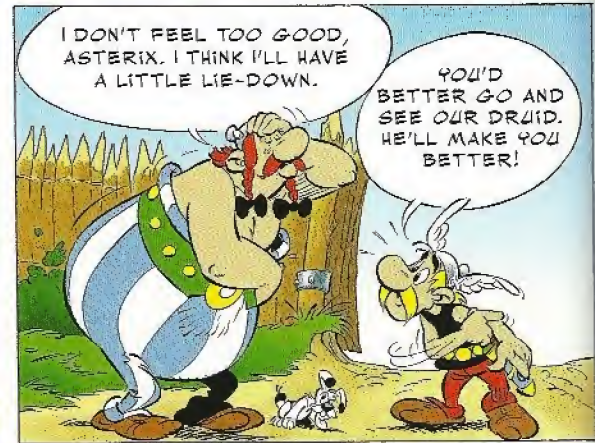
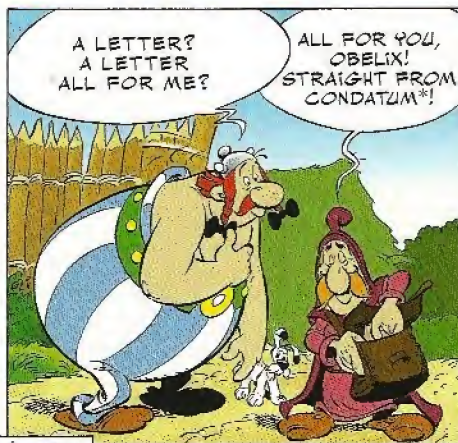
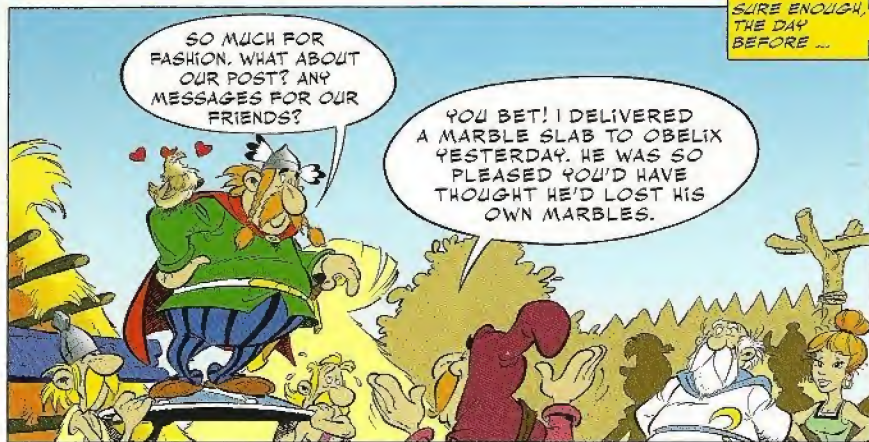
AND IN CASE ASTERIX WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE HIS SPOTS, I'M PLANNING AN EXOTIC OUTFIT FOR HIM ... IT REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING.



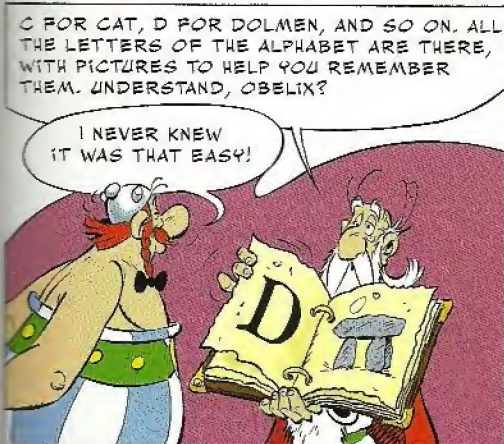
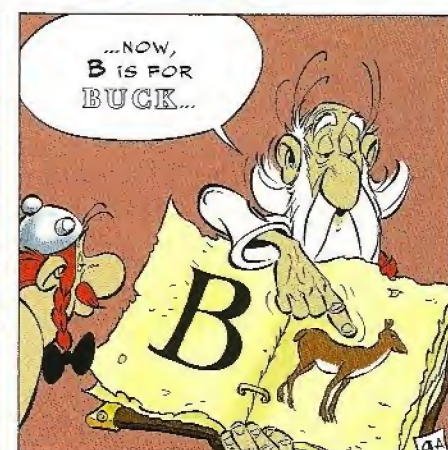
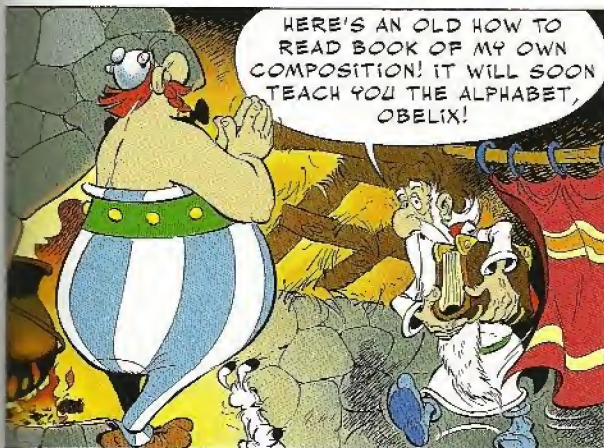
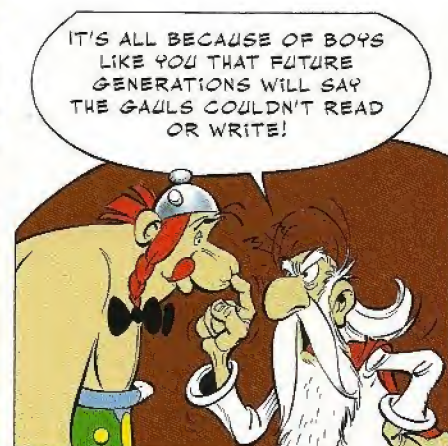
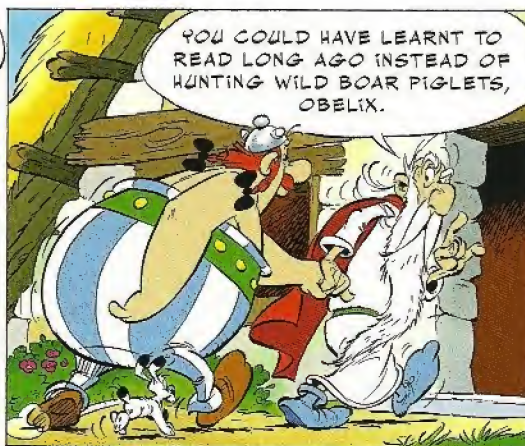
A TRIBUTE TO ANDRÉ FRANQUIN AND HIS MARSUPILANI

\* THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY!





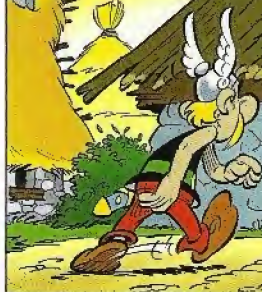






AND EARLY IN THE MORNING ...

I WONDER IF THE DRUID'S MEDICINE HAS DONE POOR OLD OBELIX GOOD?



DEAR ME, YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE ANY BETTER, OBELIX!

OH, ASTERIX, IF ONLY YOU KNEW HOW UNHAPPY I AM!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, OBELIX? YOU CAN TELL ME! I'M YOUR FRIEND!

I HAVE A GREAT BIG PROBLEM, AND I CAN'T SOLVE IT!

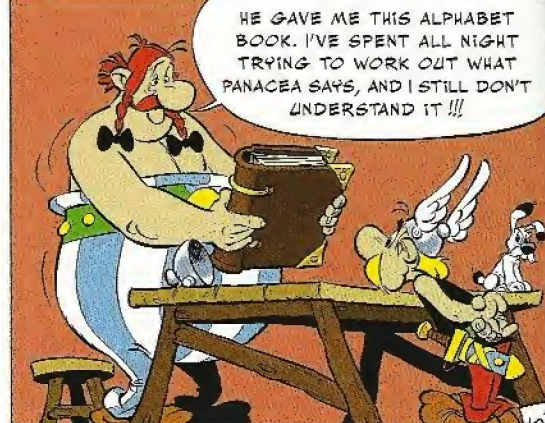


I GOT THIS CARVED SLAB FROM PANACEA! SO I ASKED GETAFIX TO TEACH ME TO READ ...

I'M BEGINNING TO GET THE IDEA!



HE GAVE ME THIS ALPHABET BOOK. I'VE SPENT ALL NIGHT TRYING TO WORK OUT WHAT PANACEA SAYS, AND I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND IT !!!



I'VE WORKED OUT WHAT IT SAYS ON THE SLAB, SO SEE IF YOU CAN MAKE SENSE OF IT: "DOLMEN, ELK, ASS, RAT, OTTER, BUCK, ELK, LION, IBIS, A LETTER I DON'T KNOW, HEDGEHOG, ASS, PEACOCK, PEACOCK, YAK, BUCK, IBIS, RAT, TIGER, HEDGEHOG, DOLMEN, ASS, YAK, PEACOCK, ASS, NIGHTINGALE, ASS, CAT, ELK, ASS."

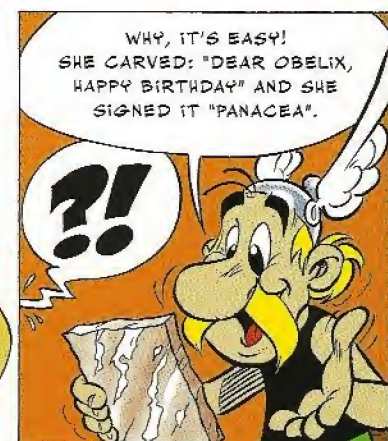


ER ... MAY I HAVE A LOOK AT IT?

IF YOU LIKE!



WHY, IT'S EASY! SHE CARVED: "DEAR OBELIX, HAPPY BIRTHDAY" AND SHE SIGNED IT "PANACEA".



SHE COULD HAVE SENT ME A BIRTHDAY SLAB TOO. WE WERE BORN ON THE SAME DAY ...

HEY, OBELIX, WHERE ARE YOU GOING ...??



NO! DON'T DO IT, OBELIX!



SPLAT!



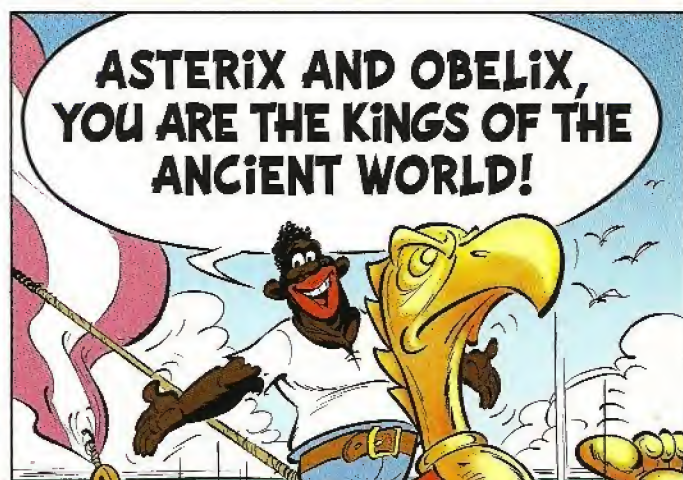
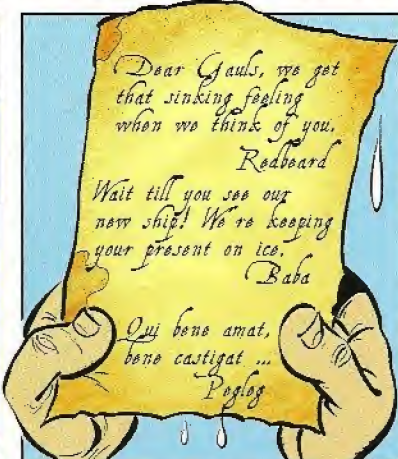


Dear Asterix and Obelix,  
thanks to you, my life has changed! I have many more talents now,  
and at last my dream of building pyramids has come true.  
I'm making progress every day. Happy birthday!

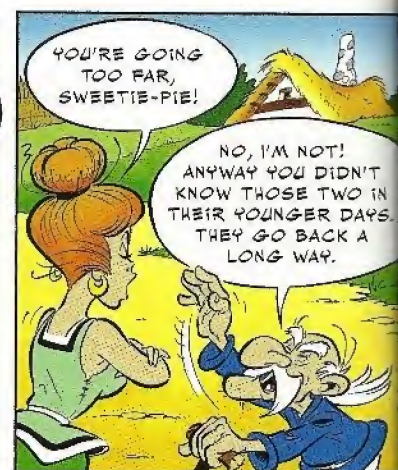
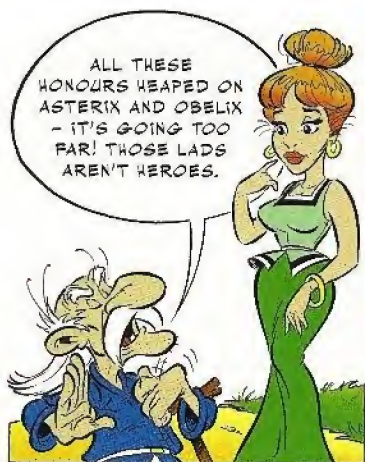
Edifis

PS: This is a new building  
designed by my colleague  
Leaningtowerofpisis.

Amazing, eh?



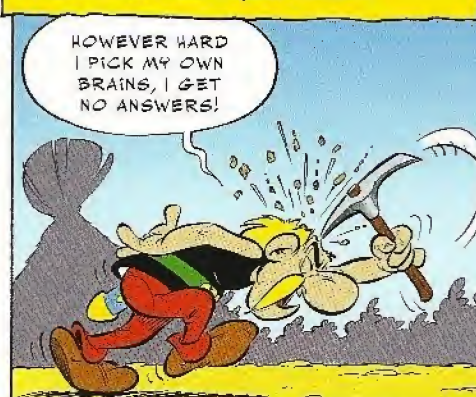




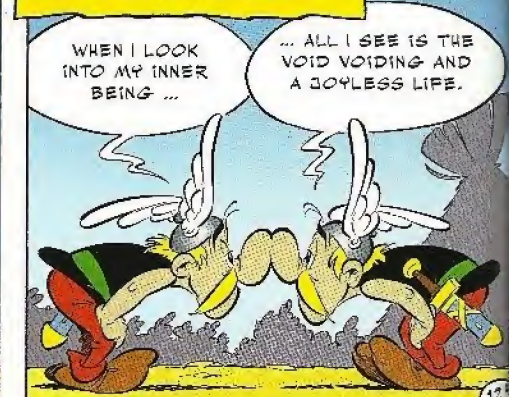
ASTERIX HAS CHANGED. HE WAS NOTHING MUCH IN HIS YOUTH, BELIEVE YOU ME.



AND AN INTELLECTUAL TOO. HE ASKED HIMSELF TOO MANY QUESTIONS.



HE'D GET DEPRESSED AT THE LEAST LITTLE SETBACK ...



HE FELT CRUSHED BY THE WEIGHT OF RESPONSIBILITY!



AND OBELIX DOESN'T HAVE MY VITALITY. YOU SHOULD SEE HIM FIRST THING IN THE MORNING...



HE CATCHES COLD AT THE LEAST BREATH OF WIND.



THEY WERE NOTHING SPECIAL. SO THE DRUID PSYCHOANALYTIX STEPPED IN.

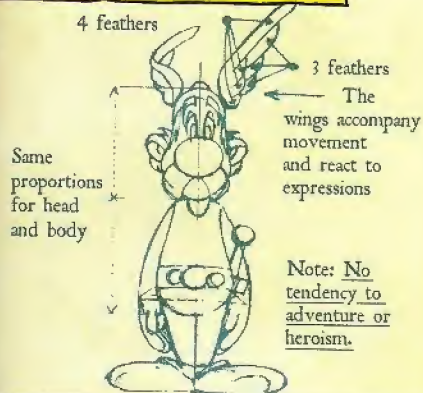


FIRST AN MRI SCAN - MIXTURE RADIATION IMAGING ...

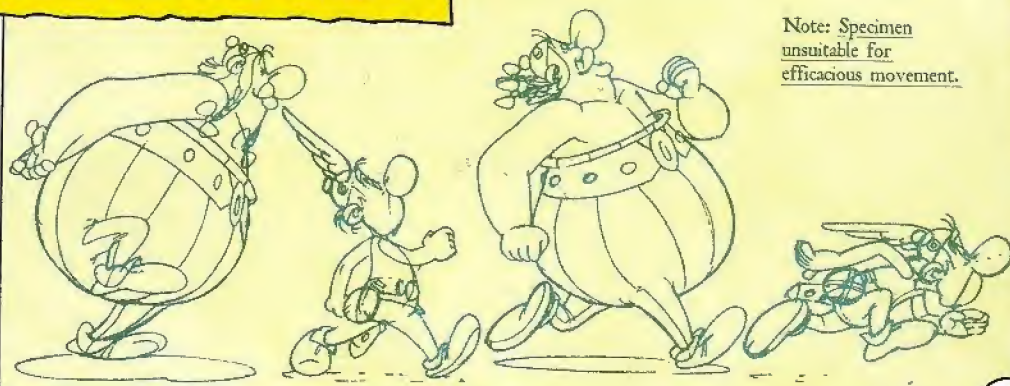




THEN A PRECISE MORPHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION ...



THEN STRENUOUS PHYSICAL EXERCISE: WALKING, RUNNING ...



JUMPING ...



GYMNASTICS ...



AFTER WHICH, OF COURSE, WE HAD WARRIORS WITH PERFECT PROPORTIONS.



WELL, ALMOST PERFECT ... !

*Powerful arms, thick neck, wide shoulders; assiduous exercise out hunting, daily deliveries of monstrosities, and fun and games with the Romans (his favourite playmates) have given Obelix a perfectly balanced body.*



*Ecco homo*

*Measure the height of Obelix from his feet to the top of his head, and if we relate that to the line defined by his outstretched hands, the breadth will be equal to the height, inscribed in a perfect square, at the centre of which is Obelix's tummy-button. In medio stat virtus, say the greatest druids of our time appreciatively. We may notice a nose of generous proportions and a curve unrelated to the classic profile of Hellenic statues, but after Obelix tasted the aerodynamic style in flight of a colleague who suggested that his round tummy lacked a little of the ideal of Greek beauty, no one has ventured to say ...*

After Leonardo da Vinci





YEAR 1 BC EDITION

# THE CIRCUMBENDIBUS TRAVEL GUIDE<sup>1</sup>

Gauls, do you like to travel? If so our guide, written by an Armorican adventurer, is just the book for you!

Of course the Gauls like to travel, by Toutatis! Here in the village, of course, we don't have far to go. The beach is very close, and there's the forest just inland. All the pleasures of a good holiday can be found here: the seaside with its pirates, mushroom-picking, boar-hunting, and a good laugh with Roman patrols. Not to mention that here in Armorica we have a very invigorating climate. In short, it's rather like being on holiday all the year round for the Romans and us.

## THE PLEASURES OF THE SEASIDE PIRATES



Frames from Asterix at the Olympic Games

## LEISURE ACTIVITIES ON HOLIDAY

A RELAXING MOMENT ON AN ARMORICAN BEACH

*A bracing climate, lovely blue skies ... and lifeguards on the watch!*



## FUN AND GAMES WITH FRIENDS



*Don't leave those you love! Take advantage of our group travel rates.*

*To avoid inconvenience, follow the advice in the Cicumbendibus Guide when booking your holiday.*

<sup>1</sup> - Lucius Circumbendibus, a big wheel in wheel manufacturing (see *Asterix and the Chieftain's Shield*), published this famous guide to the best Gaulish inns.



**T**hose of our countrymen who aren't so lucky, meaning everyone else, start thinking about their holidays in the month of Januarius<sup>1</sup> onwards. If you want to go away in Quintilis<sup>2</sup> or Sextilis<sup>3</sup> you have to plan in advance. After the month of Aprilis<sup>4</sup> there are no seaside villas left to be booked along the coast, and the only subject of conversation is what the weather will be like in summer. ("Mind you, there's a lot of climate change these days. All those Roman war machines will make the sky fall on our heads one of these days!")

**S**ome people disapprove of this attitude. "What's Gaul coming to?" they ask. "In the good old days people thought of work and nothing but work!" But even these sensible souls are not the last to set out for the southern provinces. It's the beaches of the Middle Sea that attract most tourists: Nicae, Antipolis, Forum Julii, Citharista, Olbia, Heraclea Caccabaria, Carsicis<sup>5</sup> and Athenopolis<sup>6</sup> are full of teeming crowds looking for pleasure all summer. (Particularly Athenopolis, frequented by people from the ancient world, the high society of Lutetia, and the beatnix, those strange barbarians who don't plait or wash their long hair. Some say they're like that after getting nicely stoned at Nicae.)

1 - January

2 - Soon to be called Julius in honour of Caesar, and later July

3 - To be renamed Augustus and then August

4 - April

5 - Respectively: Nice, Antibes, Fréjus, La Ciotat, Hyères, Cavalaire, Cassis

6 - Small Massilian place near present-day Saint-Tropez

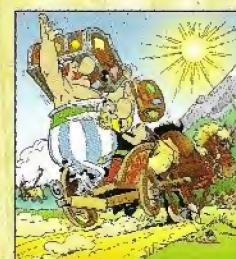
## GETTING ORGANIZED

*How to pack.  
Try to take only the  
essentials.*



*To avoid ending up in a  
shady sort of inn, reserve  
in advance!*

*For getting around, opt  
for a Gaulish-registered  
chariot*



## A SUCCESSFUL DEPARTURE

*The moment comes to part and say goodbye.  
Sensitive souls look away!*



## THE PLEASURES OF THE MIDDLE SEA

*A little relaxation on the beach at Nicae ... nothing like it for making new friends!*





Of course, the trouble is that, with everyone leaving at the same time and going the same way, the roads are crowded and, sadly, there are many

accidents. Some of those are due to careless drivers hell-bent on high speed, never mind the risk to life and limb. You hear idiots saying: "Yes, old boy, Lutetia to Nicae in only three weeks non-stop!" As if two weeks more or less meant anything in a man's life!

Roman patrols do their best to enforce the Pax Romana on the roads. The laws are being tightened up, and there's talk of throwing those careless drivers who are the worst offenders to the lions, but so far that has come to nothing, and the RPOF (Roman Policing Operations Forum) is trying to impose some semblance of discipline as best it can.



Frame from Astérix and the Banquet



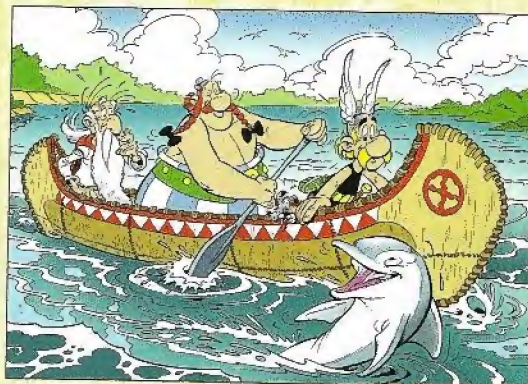
Take to the air to avoid the holiday crowds. Travel by magic carpet!

## HOW TO AVOID CROWDED ROADS

IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID CROWDED ROADS FULL OF HOLIDAY TRAFFIC AND TAILBACKS. HERE'S OUR ADVICE FOR TRAVELLING MORE EASILY.



Travel with Obelix to avoid amphora-necks!



Enjoy the peace and calm of the ocean. Travel by canoe and meet new friends.



Fly above the clouds, and cure yourself for ever of fearing that the sky will fall on your head!

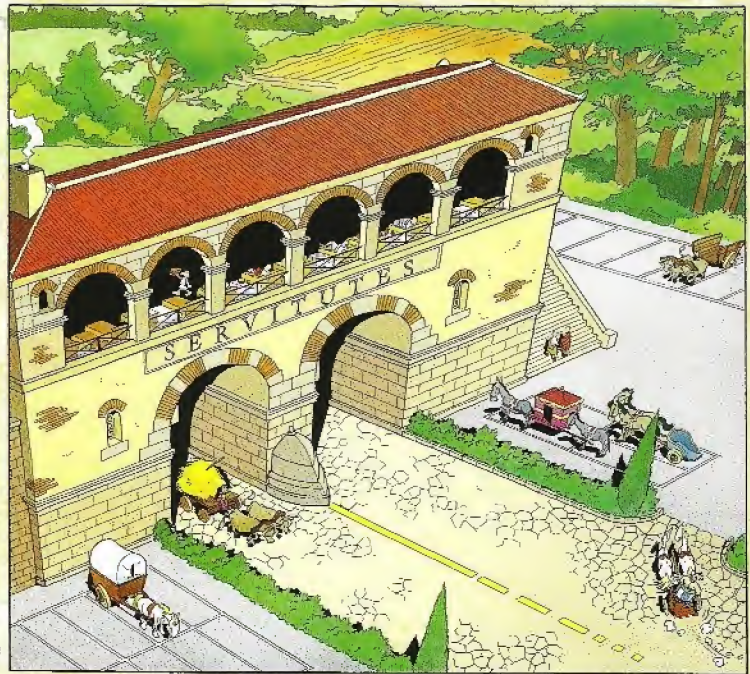


It has to be said, in defence of road users, that the design of the Roman road network is ancient. The authorities built roads paved with stone slabs which are no longer up to the pressure of modern traffic. They are cluttered up by ox-drawn haulage carts, and overtaking them is always dangerous. Nor do I think that imposing a speed limit of III millia passuum an hour<sup>1</sup> on all vehicles will solve the problem. And I doubt whether sending bad drivers to the Circus is a good idea, although the lions seem to think so. The roads must be widened and ring roads built around towns and villages. Anyone who has driven through Lugdunum will know what I mean.

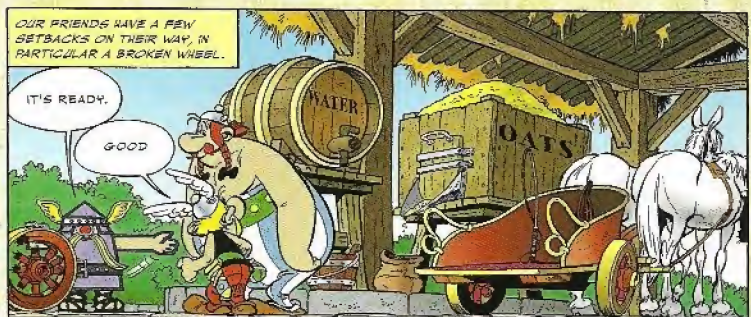
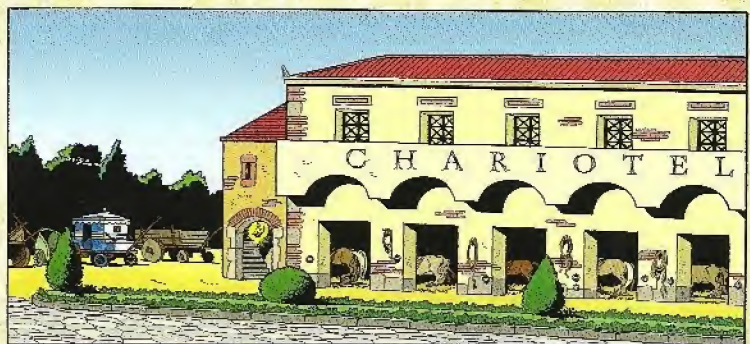
Meanwhile people go on taking risks and suffering from road rage as they hurl insults at each other. "I'm going to barbecue those oxen of yours!" "Get going, rapa<sup>2</sup>-face!" "I'm not tailgating you for ever, raeda lenta<sup>3</sup>! Let me by!" "I'm working! I'm a slave, I am! I'm not here for fun!" "You're a slave, eh? If I was your master I'd trade you in for a donkey. Donkeys work better, they're prettier and more intelligent!" "Want to know what the donkey says to you?" And so on.



It's not unusual to see what ought to have been a pleasant excursion degenerate into a pitched battle, leading to amphora-necks and tailbacks paralysing the traffic for millia and millia passuum.



## ROMAN ROADS GUARANTEED C% FOR ALL MOD CONS



*With servitudes, chariotels and service stations along the way, every effort has been made to provide for the comfort of chariot drivers!*

1 – About 4.5 kph    2 – Turnip eaten instead of potatoes    3 – Latin, slow coach



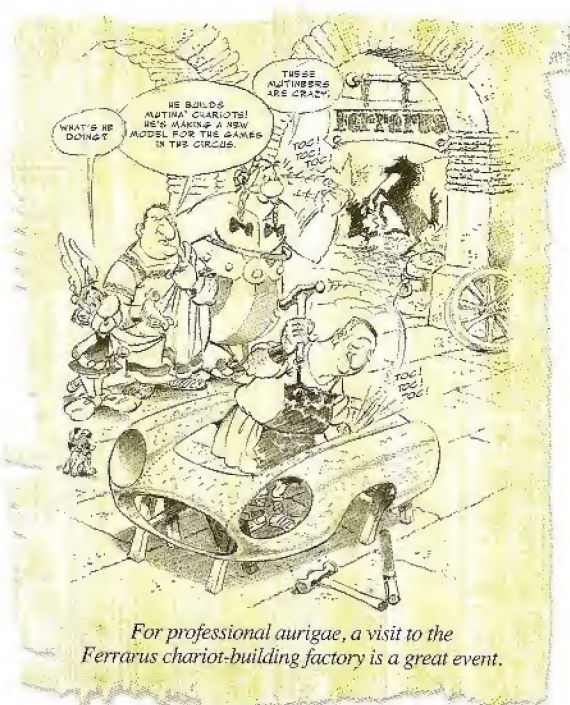
And there's one thing the Gauls will never understand: it's not a good idea to eat a heavy meal at lunchtime when you still have some way to travel. But we Gauls are greedy pigs, we feed our faces with wild boar, and we can't resist one last hornful of Aquitanian wine to wash it down! In spite of the marble slabs up beside the roads telling us not to drink and drive, we forget that the amphora can kill as easily as an enemy soldier's pilum. Remember:

"One amphora, fine!

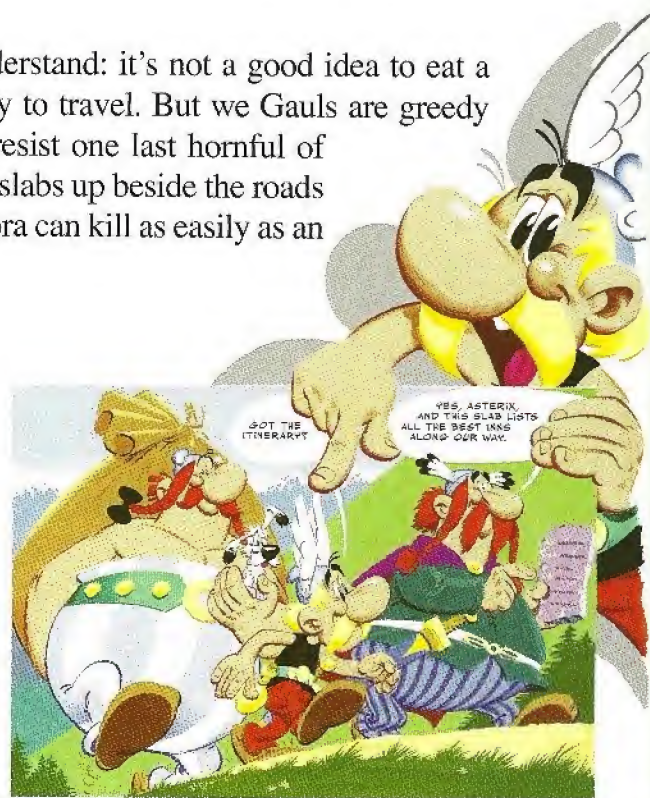
Two amphorae, watch out!"

Almost everyone has his own chariot these days, but how many people are really good drivers? How many of you know, for instance, what distance you need to stop a galloping horse? XX feet! A pair of oxen going full speed ahead will need XXX feet to come to a halt! And if you are travelling by litter, it takes X feet for slaves carrying you at full tilt to pull up.

Furthermore, whether you're in a Roman chariot, an ox cart or a litter, sports-chariot driving is best left to the professional aurigae. Allow me to offer a little advice: you're not Ben Hur. Controlled skids and sharp bends taken at the gallop are not for you. You have a good chariot, you're proud of the power under its yoke, but use that power only to keep yourself out of danger.



*For professional aurigae, a visit to the Ferrarus chariot-building factory is a great event.*



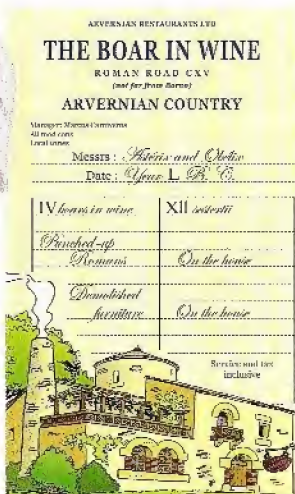
Another problem with our roads is that too few service stations are open at night. If you break down after sunset, I suppose you could always try looking for a veterinary surgeon, but you'll be told, "I'm here to sell hay, not doctor the draught animals." In addition, getting spare parts is difficult. If one of your team of oxen needs replacing, you'll be told that the spare part has to come from Charolais, and you may spend your whole holiday waiting for your ox to arrive. Because even when it gets into its stride an ox doesn't move fast!



*To be sure of a warm welcome everywhere, take your travelling bard with you.*



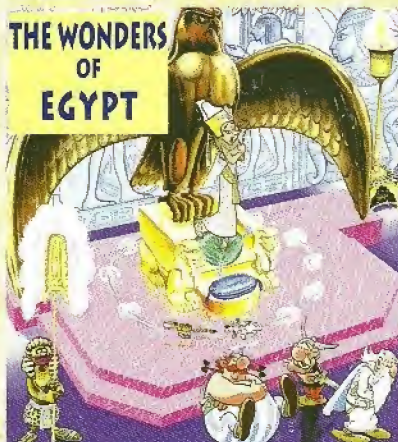
There are also the inns along your way. It's better not to stop on the off chance, because you may have a nasty surprise when the bill arrives, and your wallet could suffer a sizeable catapult-hole. Of course, if you like fancy cooking you'll find luxury establishments rated by golden sickles in the specialist guides, places where you can eat pâté of ants' thighs, stuffed nightingale tongues and candied trout-heads. But if you prefer simple fare, stop at one of the places with transport carts parked outside. You'll find a friendly atmosphere where they serve you good roast boar, chilled barley beer, and hydromel like Mater makes it.



If you want a place to stay on your way, it's best to reserve in advance, or you may have to sleep the night in your chariot. Many like to go camping, but then you should follow the example of the Romans: never forget to dig a ditch and put up a fence around your tent. That will keep out attacking barbarians, who are sometimes a nuisance and spoil your good night's sleep.

Finally, I must add that only prudent Gauls enjoy their travels, but I wish all of you happy holidays!

## HOLIDAY IDEAS



*Egypt and its queen of queens. Nothing but happy memories for the Gauls. We're not so sure about Cleopatra ...*

*Adventurers at heart will enjoy a stay in the middle of the desert. An unexpected encounter with your deepest longings!*



*To impress your friends, have souvenir pictures carved in front of historic monuments.*



*Britain, with its evergreen bard groups and legendary warm-water time. These Britons are crazy!*



# PUT YOUR TRAVELS ON THE MAP

Useful accessories to take, souvenirs from foreign lands:  
everything you need for going away  
in times of classical antiquity.

- I.  
**Ticket for the Regional Eurostella Routes**  
public chariot company.
- II.  
**Set of Viking drinking skulls,**  
great fun for merry evenings at home with friends!
- III.  
**Postcard slabs.**  
To keep in touch with your loved ones.
- IV.  
**Souvenir of the greatest city in the universe.**
- V.  
**Travel guide,**  
to make sure you don't miss anything!
- VI.  
**Gourd of NSP.**  
Don't lose your bearings!  
This gourd of North Star potion will help you find them again any time.  
Exclusively brewed by Viking magicians.
- VII.  
**Shipwrecked galley.**  
Do you enjoy sport?  
Prepare to board a pirate ship (optional)
- VIII.  
**A few sestertii.**  
Collectors: keep the loose change from every province.  
Egyptian talents are the most sought after.
- IX.  
**Club Middle Sea brochure slab.**  
Lots of leisure activities in idyllic surroundings.
- X.  
**Pyramid paperweight.**  
The Great Pyramid in the snow.  
You dream of it, the Egyptians make it!
- XI.  
**Passport.**  
Issued by the Imperial authorities.  
You will need one of these to move freely around  
all the countries that are part of the Pax Romana.



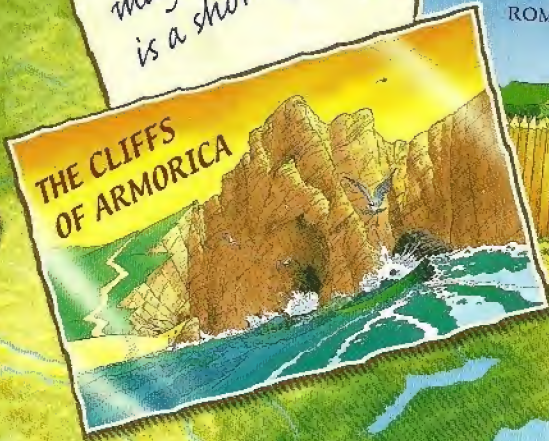
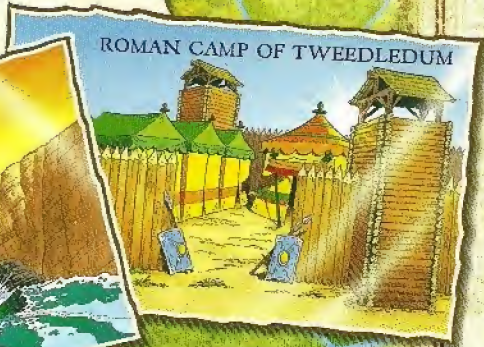




II

The scenery is magnificent, but there is a shortage of Romans! Obelix

III



V



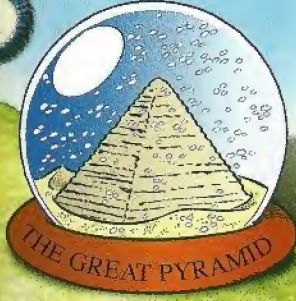
VIII



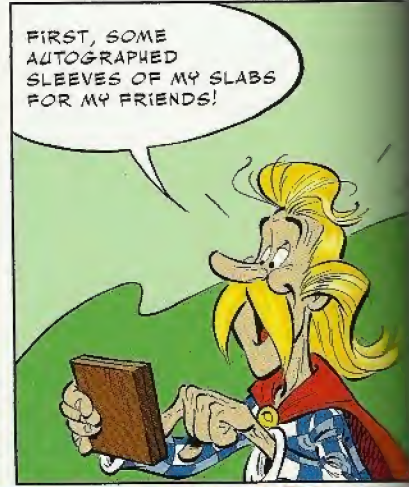
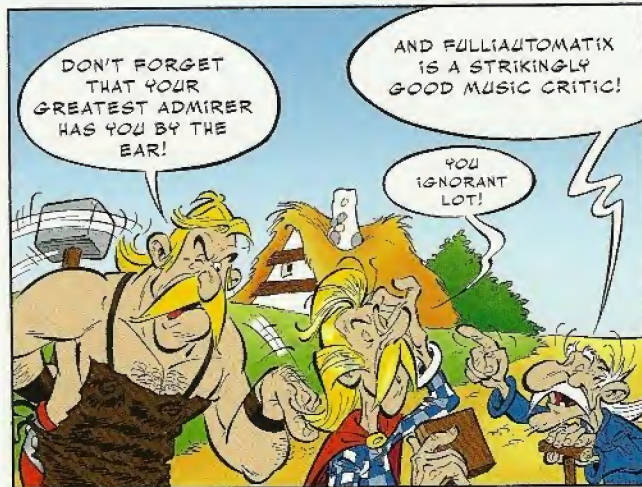
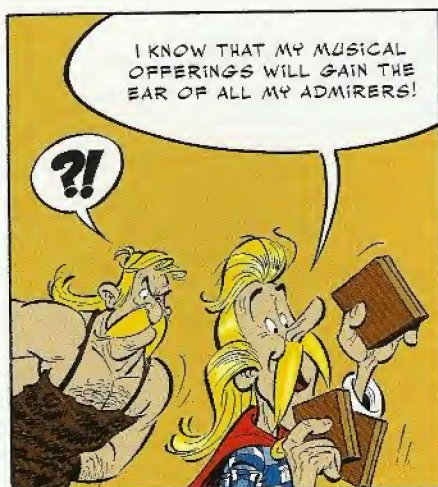
IX

FOREIGN TRAVEL IS ALL VERY WELL, BUT RATHER DULL WITHOUT MUSIC.

X



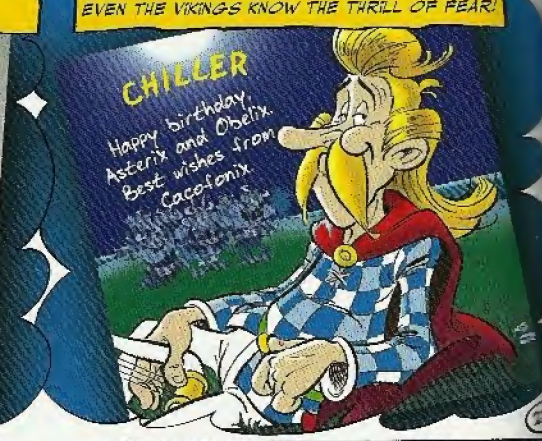
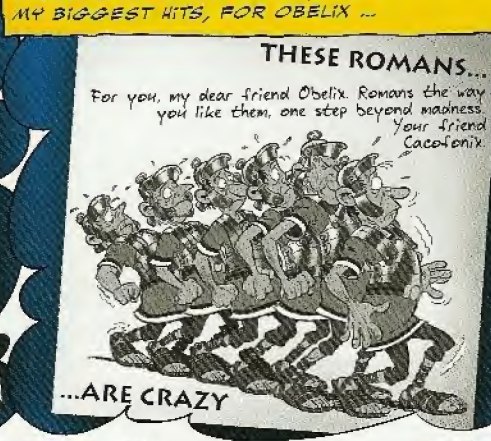
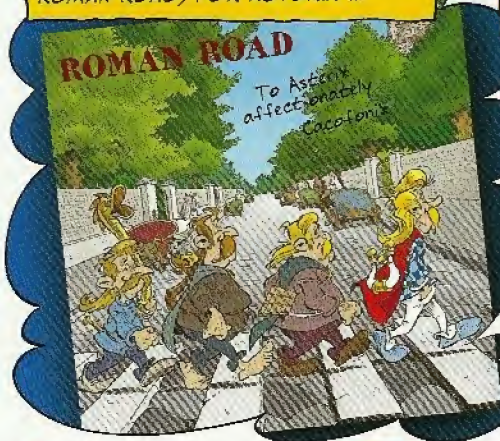




ROMAN ROAD, FOR ASTERIX ...

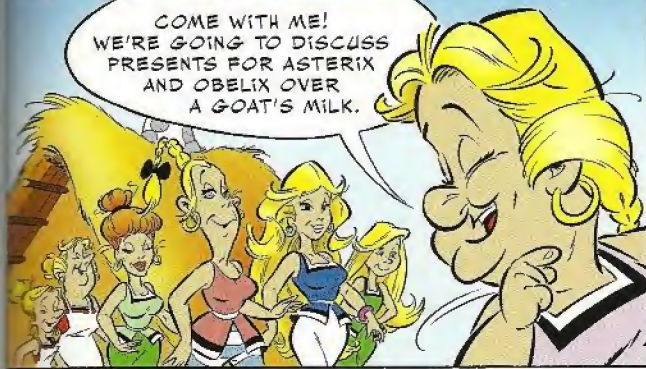
THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY, ONE OF MY BIGGEST HITS, FOR OBELIX ...

AND FINALLY CHILLER, GUARANTEED TO MAKE EVEN THE VIKINGS KNOW THE THRILL OF FEAR!

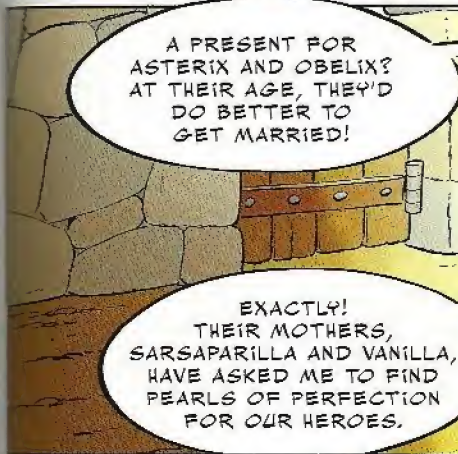




UNIMPRESSED BY CACOPONIX'S IDEAS FOR PRESENTS, IMPEDIMENTA INVITES THE GAULISH LADIES IN FOR A NICE CUPPA.



COME WITH ME! WE'RE GOING TO DISCUSS PRESENTS FOR ASTERIX AND OBELIX OVER A GOAT'S MILK.



A PRESENT FOR ASTERIX AND OBELIX? AT THEIR AGE, THEY'D DO BETTER TO GET MARRIED!

EXACTLY! THEIR MOTHERS, SARSAPARILLA AND VANILLA, HAVE ASKED ME TO FIND PEARLS OF PERFECTION FOR OUR HEROES.



ASTERIX IS A HOPELESS CASE. I DID WHAT I COULD, BUT ...

I FEAR POOR OBELIX HAS EYES ONLY FOR ME.

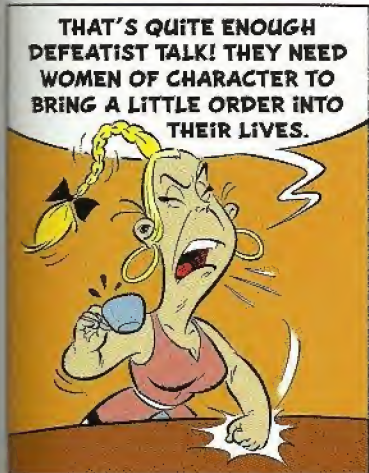
OBELIX? HUH! HE HAS EYES ONLY FOR HIS ROMANS AND HIS BOARS.



I'M AFRAID IT'S A FACT THAT THOSE TWO WARRIORS KNOW NOTHING ABOUT TENDER AFFECTION.



AND AMOROUS PASSION HAS THEM BAFLED.



THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH DEFEATIST TALK! THEY NEED WOMEN OF CHARACTER TO BRING A LITTLE ORDER INTO THEIR LIVES.



EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN WHOM THEY CAN LOOK UP TO!







# Geriatric Wins Lutetia Marathon!

## Daily Lutetian

Year I. BC. No. XXXIV

### Asterix the Gaul Weds!

#### Culture

##### Cacophonix Farewell Tour

The famous Azimorian band re-invents the genre. At every concert he gives it's the spectators who say goodbye! Read more on page VIII.

#### Environmental news

##### Wild boar classified a protected species

First reaction from dismayed consumers: "Boohoo! Sniff!"

#### Urban Violence

Complete Roman legion of highly trained men, adopting the fighting formation known as the Tortoise, savagely attacked by superior numbers in a formation of ... two!

#### Delicacies of Aleria

Special Offer: under one sesterterius per kilo until the next new moon!

##### The best Corsican cheese

Voted Flavour of Year I. BC. A subtle, light flavour to enliven family meals!

#### Former girl-friend jealous

"He blacked my eye first!"

Revelations on page V

**Social Register:** All is euphoria in the one small village of indomitable Gauls still holding out against the Roman invaders: Asterix, the most confirmed of bachelors, celebrates his wedding! Julius Caesar, although invited, decided to stay in Rome bestowing the Honesta Missio on several veteran legionaries ... All details, pages II to VI.

XXIX-X-MCMLIX





AND THE LOVING CARE OF A WIFE COULD CERTAINLY MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE TO ONE OF THEM!



HERE'S YOUR LITTLE CHICKEN, OBELIX SWEETIE-PIE! ONLY THREE MORE LITTLE KILOS TO LOSE AND YOU'LL BE IN PERFECT SHAPE!



BUT IT'S A FACT THAT, AS MY PIE GERIATRIX HONEY-BUN ALWAYS SAYS, IT'S RARE TO FIND A WIFE LIKE ME.



HMPH! YES, WELL ... WELL, NONE OF THIS TELLS US WHY THOSE TWO OLD BACHELORS SHOW NO INTEREST IN THE PLEASURES OF MARRIED LIFE!

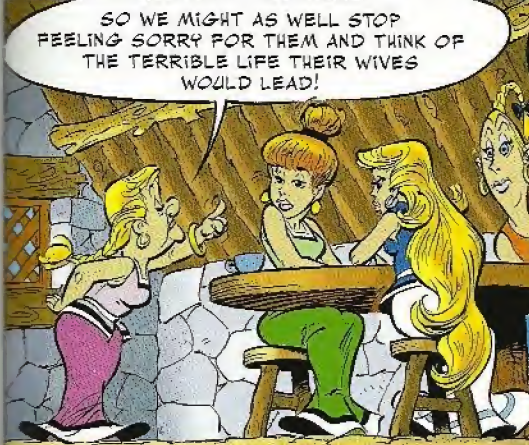


ASTERIX, DARLING, I'M GOING SHOPPING! DON'T FORGET TO DO THE HOUSEWORK WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED WASHING UP!

TEHEE HEHEE!



SO WE MIGHT AS WELL STOP FEELING SORRY FOR THEM AND THINK OF THE TERRIBLE LIFE THEIR WIVES WOULD LEAD!



YOUR DAD HAS GONE OFF TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH AGAIN! WELL, IF HE THINKS ANYONE WILL BE INTERESTED IN HIS ADVENTURES, HE'S MAKING A BIG MISTAKE!



I OUGHT TO HAVE LISTENED TO MY MOTHER INSTEAD OF GETTING MARRIED TO A GREAT BIG BOY WHO THINKS OF NOTHING BUT FILLING HIS FACE AND PLAYING WITH ROMANS!



SO LET'S LEAVE THEM IN THEIR BACHELOR STATE. GIRLS WHO COULD BEAR TO MARRY THEM HAVEN'T YET BEEN BORN!

THEY'D HAVE TO BE OUT OF THE ORDINARY, BUT I MAY HAVE A LITTLE IDEA FOR OBELIX!









MEANWHILE, IN THE VILLAGE SQUARE, THERE ARE MANY IDEAS IN THE AIR ...



WITH A BIG AUTOMATED STATUE OF ASTERIX AT THE CENTRE!

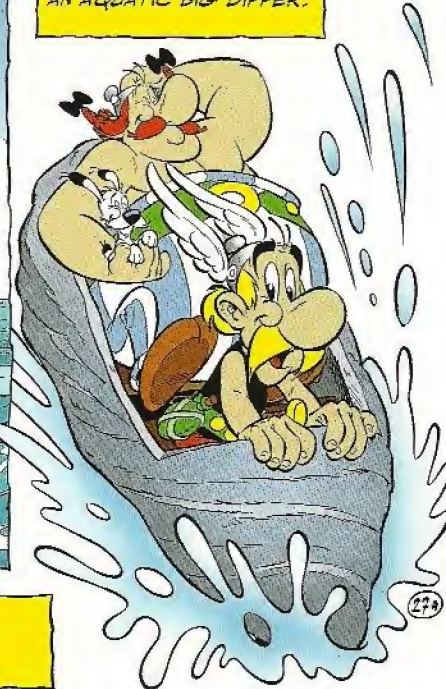
Movement of head



AND WONDERFUL ATTRACTIONS ALL AROUND HIM. A CRUISE ON A DOLPHIN'S BACK.



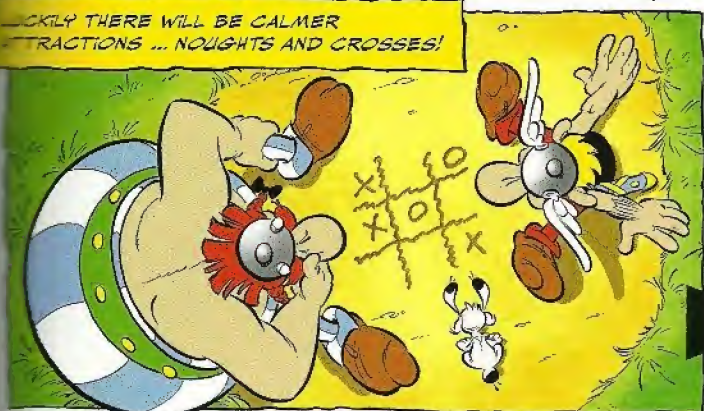
AN AQUATIC BIG DIPPER.



OBELIX WILL LOVE IT! I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT ASTERIX AND DOGMATIX.



... LUCKILY THERE WILL BE CALMER ATTRACTIONS ... NOUGHTS AND CROSSES!

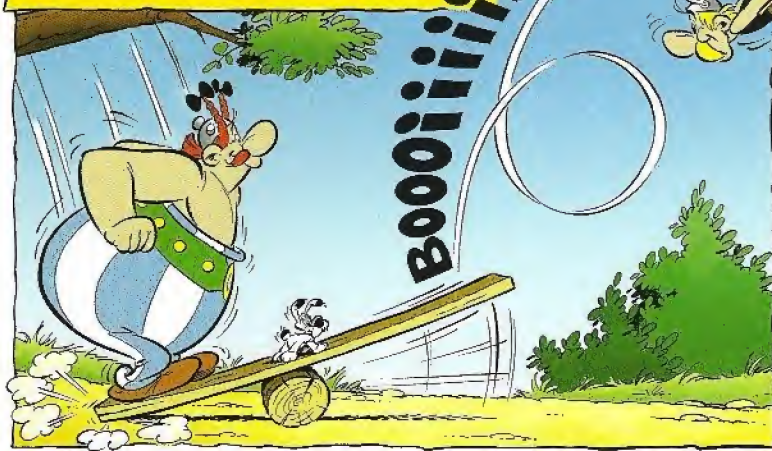


AND PUZZLES FOR OBELIX. HE CARVES LIKE NOBODY'S BUSINESS!





THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A REAL SENSATION: ON THIS SEESAW YOU CAN DANCE A GAULISH FLING.



MY DISTORTING MIRRORS ARE AN INVENTION WHICH WILL LEAVE ASTERIX AND OBELIX FLABBERGASTED.



THERE'LL BE SPORTS IN THE PARK TOO. YOU CAN LEARN HOW TO SLIDE ON THE SNOW ...

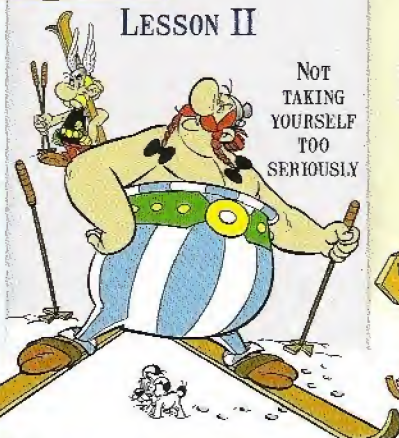
### LESSON I

LEARNING TO CONCENTRATE



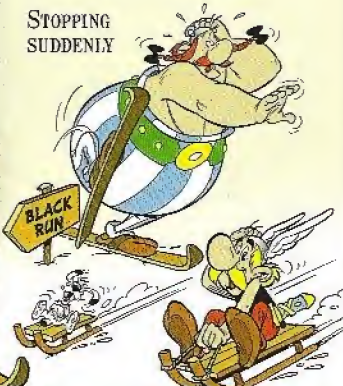
### LESSON II

NOT TAKING YOURSELF TOO SERIOUSLY



### LESSON III

STOPPING SUDDENLY



### LESSON IV

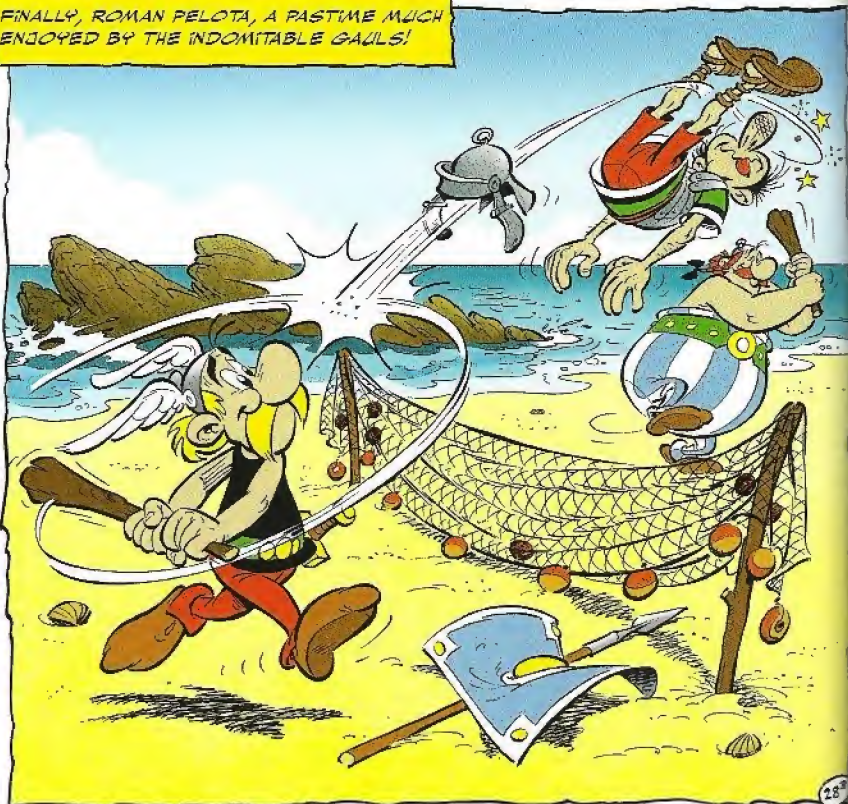
BENDING THE KNEES



AND A GAME GOOD FOR A LAUGH. TEST OBELIX'S FLEXIBILITY!





FINALLY, ROMAN PELOTA, A PASTIME MUCH ENJOYED BY THE INDOMITABLE GAULS!





THE PARK WILL BE A GREAT  
ATTRACTION! THIS WILL GIVE YOU  
SOME IDEA OF ITS SUCCESS.

	<b>SQUAREONTHEHYPOTENUS</b> PRODUCTIONS	
PROJECT	Indomitable Gauls' Park	
SKETCH	Opening day	
DATE	Year L BC	

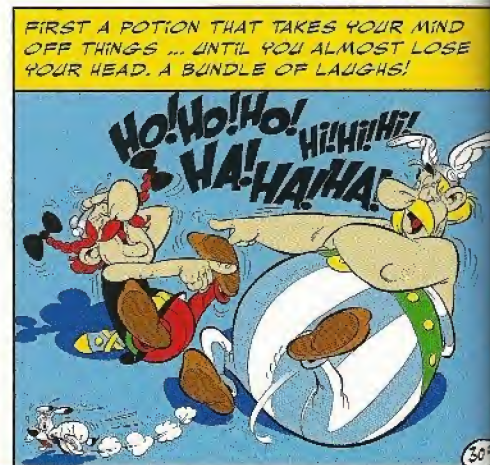
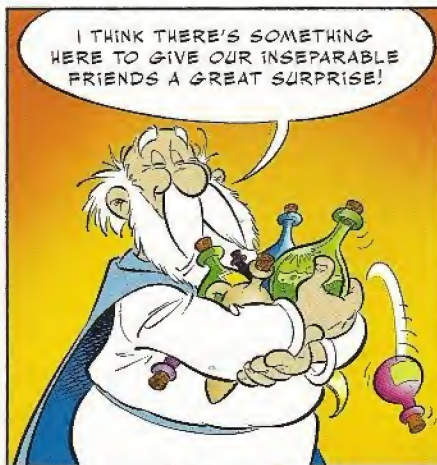
CALM DOWN!  
CALM DOWN! THIS  
ISN'T GERGOVIA,  
YOU KNOW.

SEE ALL THESE PEOPLE,  
ASTERIX? IF A WILD SOW  
LOST HER PIGLETS SHE'D  
NEVER FIND THEM IN THIS  
CROWD.

THE LAST TIME I SAW  
SO MANY HAPPY PEOPLE  
WAS WHEN OUR BARD  
LOST HIS VOICE!

THE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE GAULISH  
VILLAGE IS WORTHY  
OF US, BY JUPITER!  
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE  
ABOUT IT.





THEN THE POTION THAT CURES DEPRESSION BY CHASING BLACK THOUGHTS AWAY ... FOR GOOD!



THE POTION THAT GUARDS AGAINST THE WEIGHT OF ADVANCING YEARS ... JUST ONE DROP GIVES YOU THE FLOWER POWER OF YOUR YOUTH!

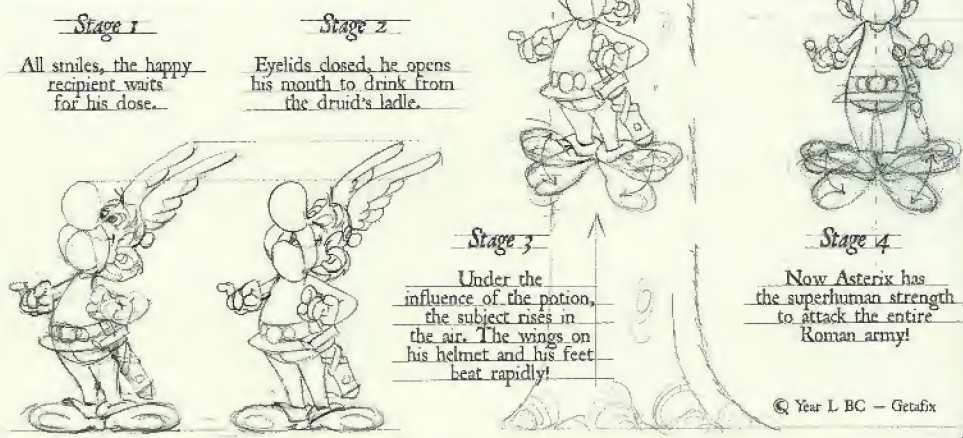


THEN THE POTION THAT GIVES YOU SELF-CONFIDENCE. NOTHING AND NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO RESIST YOU!

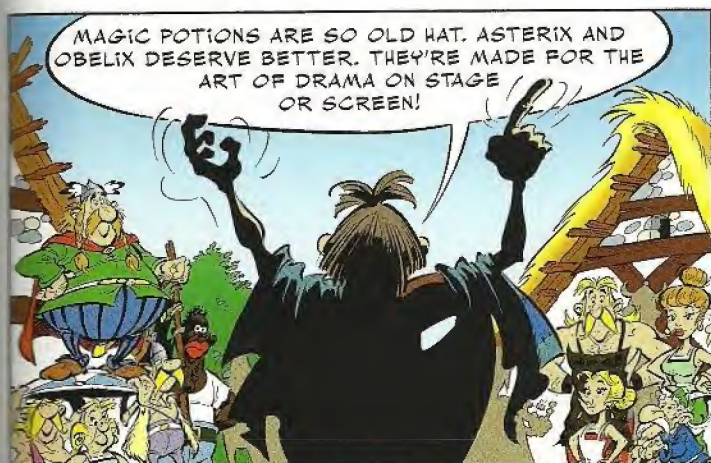


AND I'VE KEPT THE BEST TILL LAST: MY FRIEND GETAFIX'S FAMOUS MAGIC POTION. ITS EFFECTS, SHOWN IN DETAIL HERE, ARE ALWAYS SURPRISING!

### Effects of the magic potion



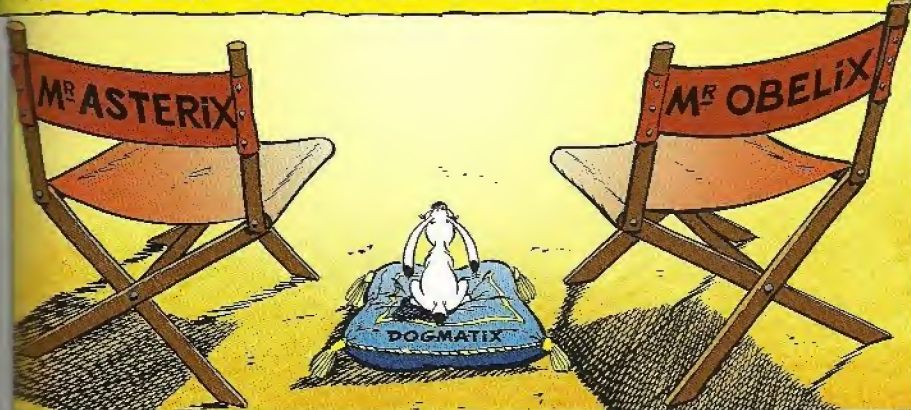




LOOK AT THEM! SUCH CHARISMA! SUCH PRESENCE!



THEY HAVE EVERYTHING THEY NEED TO BE THE MOST FAMOUS HEROES OF OUR TIME! LET'S STAGE THEIR ADVENTURES AS A MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE!



GLORY IS AT HAND, I ASSURE YOU!









THE ROMANS WILL HAVE THEIR PART TO PLAY, SO WE CAN'T DO WITHOUT THEIR GOODWILL.

**THE ROMAN!  
HE'S MAKING A  
BREAK FOR IT!**



NO, OBELIX! DON'T!

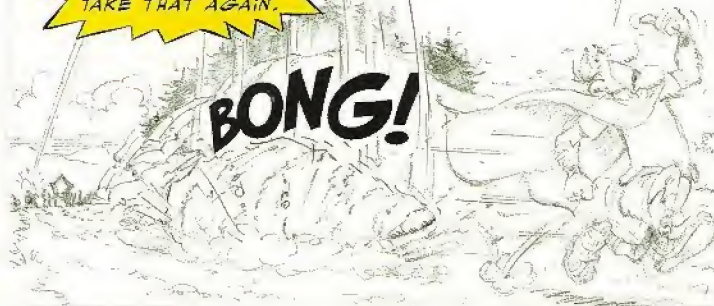
I'M ABOUT  
TO LOSE MY  
TEMPER!



YOU'RE LOSING  
YOUR TOUCH,  
OBELIX!! WE'LL  
TAKE THAT AGAIN.

**BONG!**

I'M HAPPY  
WITH THIS  
ONE !!!



**THE ROMAN!  
HE'S MAKING A  
BREAK FOR IT!**

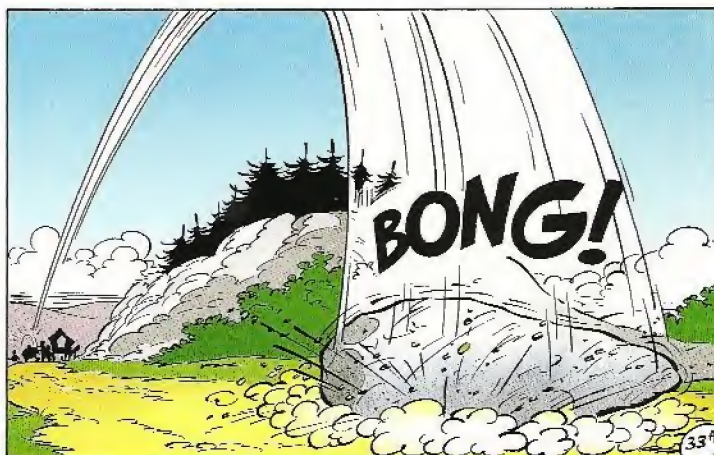


NO, OBELIX! DON'T!

I'M ABOUT  
TO LOSE MY  
TEMPER!



**BONG!**



AS A GENERAL RULE, ALL THE ACTORS MUST DO EXACTLY AS I SAY!

PERSONALLY, I SEE  
THE SCENE MORE  
LIKE THIS!



OH! THANK YOU!  
YOU'RE SUCH  
A SWEETIE,  
OBELIX!

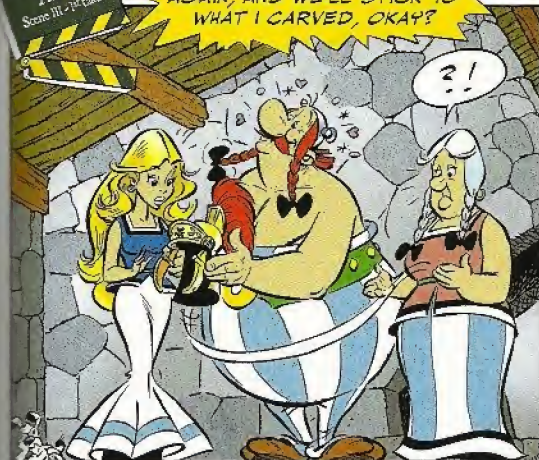


?! SMACK!

**CALM DOWN,  
OBELIX! CALM  
DOWN!**



RIGHT, WE'LL TAKE THAT  
AGAIN, AND WE'LL STICK TO  
WHAT I CARVED, OKAY?



OH! THANK  
YOU! YOU'RE SUCH  
A SWEETIE,  
OBELIX!

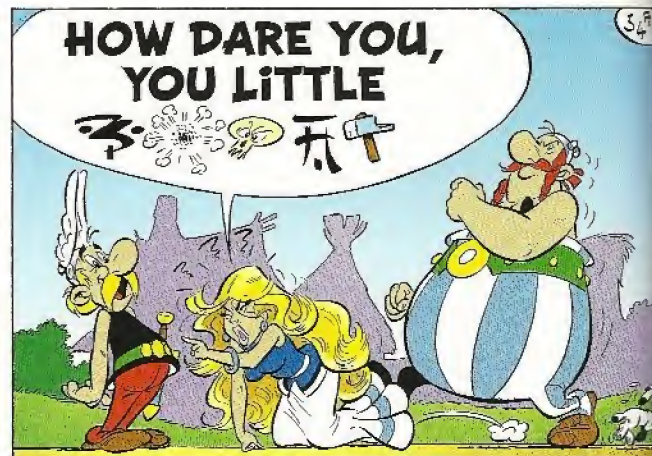
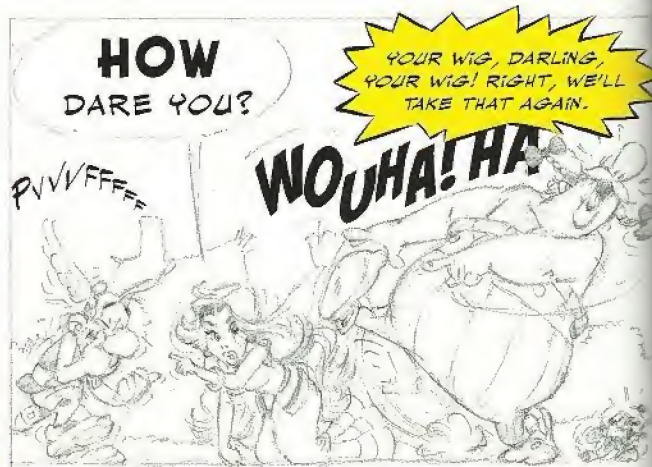


AFTER ALL, YOU'RE FREE TO  
DO AS YOU LIKE WITH YOUR  
PRESENTS, OBELIX!





WE WILL AVOID ALL FAR-FETCHED INTERPRETATIONS.



AND OF COURSE I'M NOT HAVING ANY COMPLAINTS FROM THE ACTORS!





AND NO CHANGING  
MY DIALOGUE  
EITHER!

WHAT ARE  
YOU THINKING  
OF, ASTERIX?

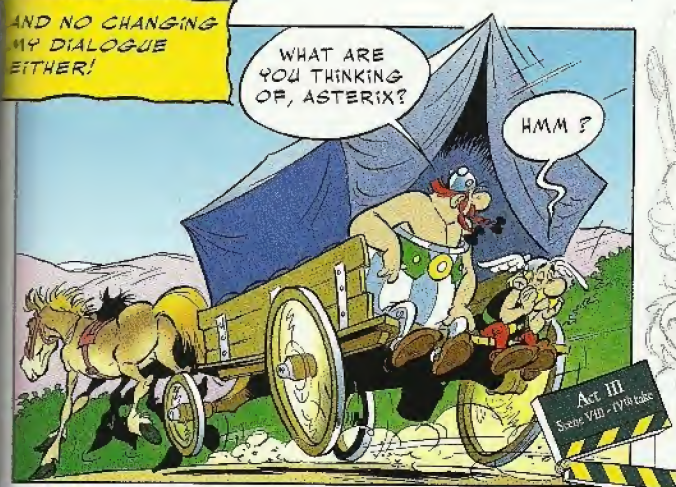
HMM?

GUESS!  
\*\*\*\*\*

LEAVE OUT THE  
BAD LANGUAGE,  
STICK TO THE  
SCRIPT!

THAT ASTERIX  
IS CRAZY!

TAP!  
TAP!  
TAP!  
TAP!



35 AB

AND THE SHOW WILL BE PUT ON IN A BIG THEATRE SO THAT THE WHOLE VILLAGE CAN ATTEND.

THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY !  
GOSCINNYRIX  
IN THE PART OF ASTERIX

WITH

UDERZORIX  
IN THE PART OF OBELIX

PRESENTED BY *VIS COMICA* PRODUCTIONS

SHOWINGS EXTENDED  
TO XXVII MAIUS BY POPULAR  
REQUEST

THESE ROMANS

ARE CRAZY!



YOUNG PEOPLE,  
YOU ARE ABOUT TO  
WATCH A HIGH-DEFINITION  
SUPER-MAGIC SHOW  
ABOUT OUR  
ADVENTURES.

THIS IS GOING  
TO BE FUNNY,  
OBELIX!

TEHEE!  
IT'S FUNNY  
ALREADY! SEE  
THEIR NOSES?

I DON'T  
KNOW WHY I WASN'T  
ASKED TO SING  
AT THIS EVENT!

WE TOOK OUT  
INSURANCE  
AGAINST IT.

WELL ... ER ...  
JULIUS CAESAR  
SENT ME ALONG AS  
AN OBSERVER.

HEY! YOU,  
ROMAN! WHAT  
ARE YOU DOING  
HERE?





AS THE GAULS QUEUE UP, EXCITEMENT AND IMPATIENCE ARE MOUNTING ...



DURING THE PERFORMANCE, THE THEATRE ECHOES WITH ROARS OF LAUGHTER AND SHOUTS OF JOY!



THE SHOW WILL CERTAINLY BE THE TALK OF THE ENTIRE KNOWN WORLD!



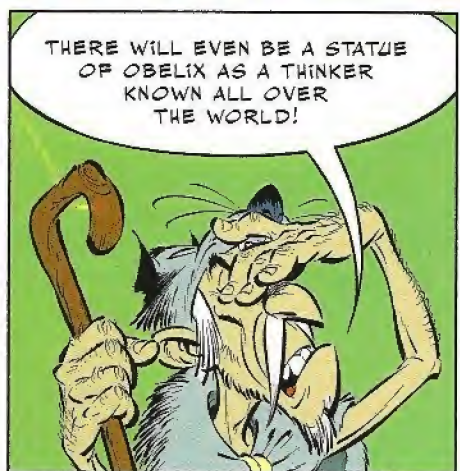
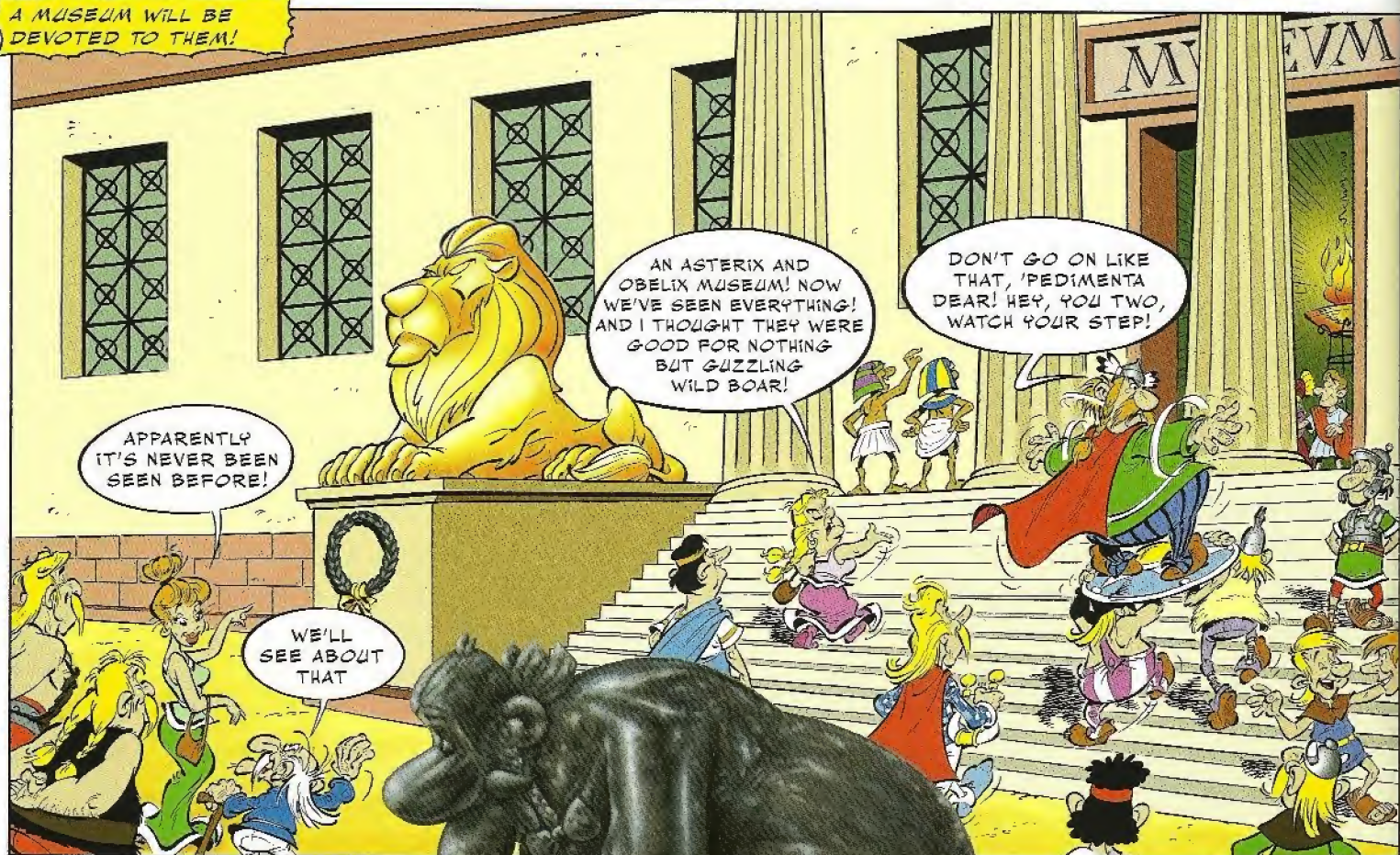








A MUSEUM WILL BE DEVOTED TO THEM!





BUT LUCKILY FOR OBELIX, THE ROMANS ALWAYS  
COME BACK, AND SO DOES INSPIRATION!



After Delacroix

THOSE  
COLOURS, THAT  
DRAWING, THAT  
COMPOSITION  
...

ALL  
EXPRESSING  
THE UTMOST  
LIBERTY!

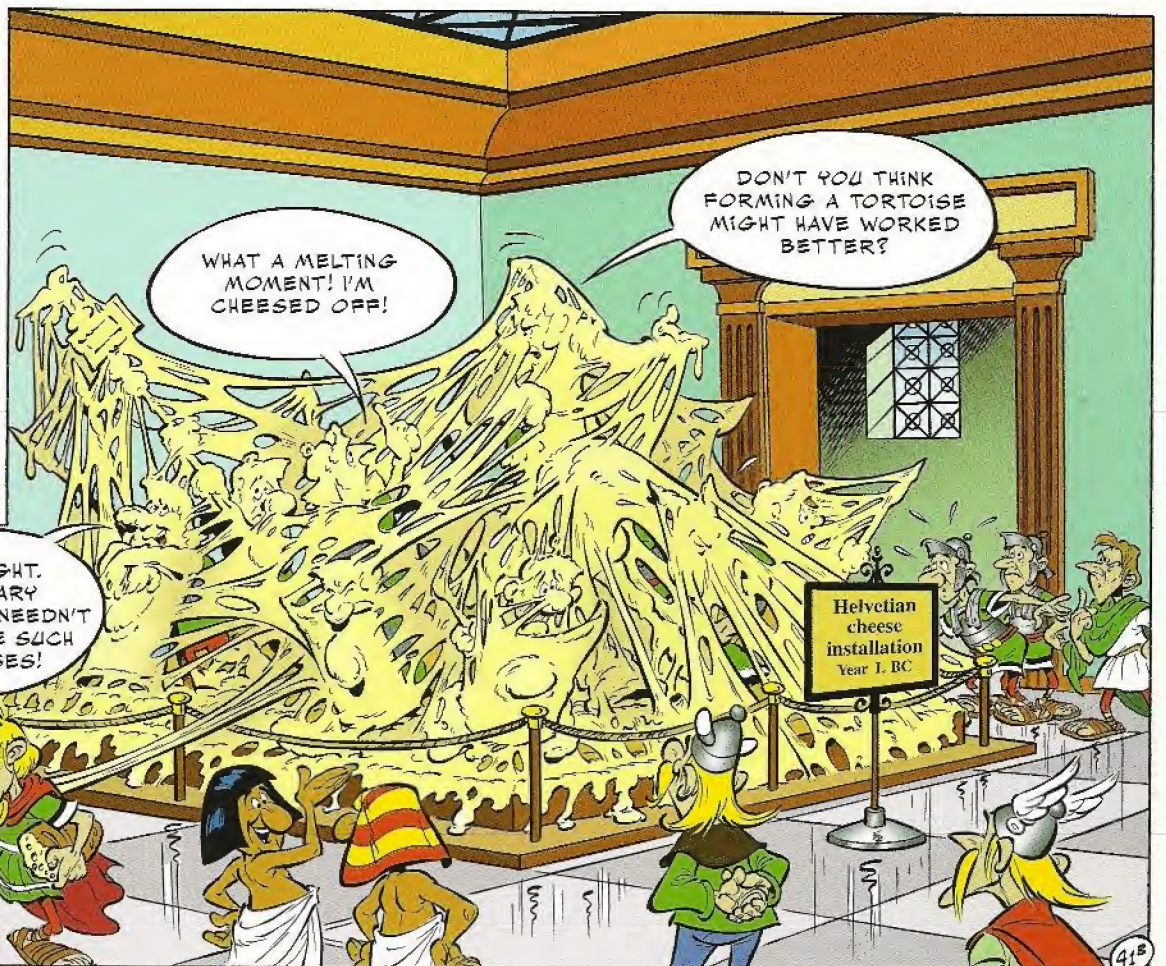
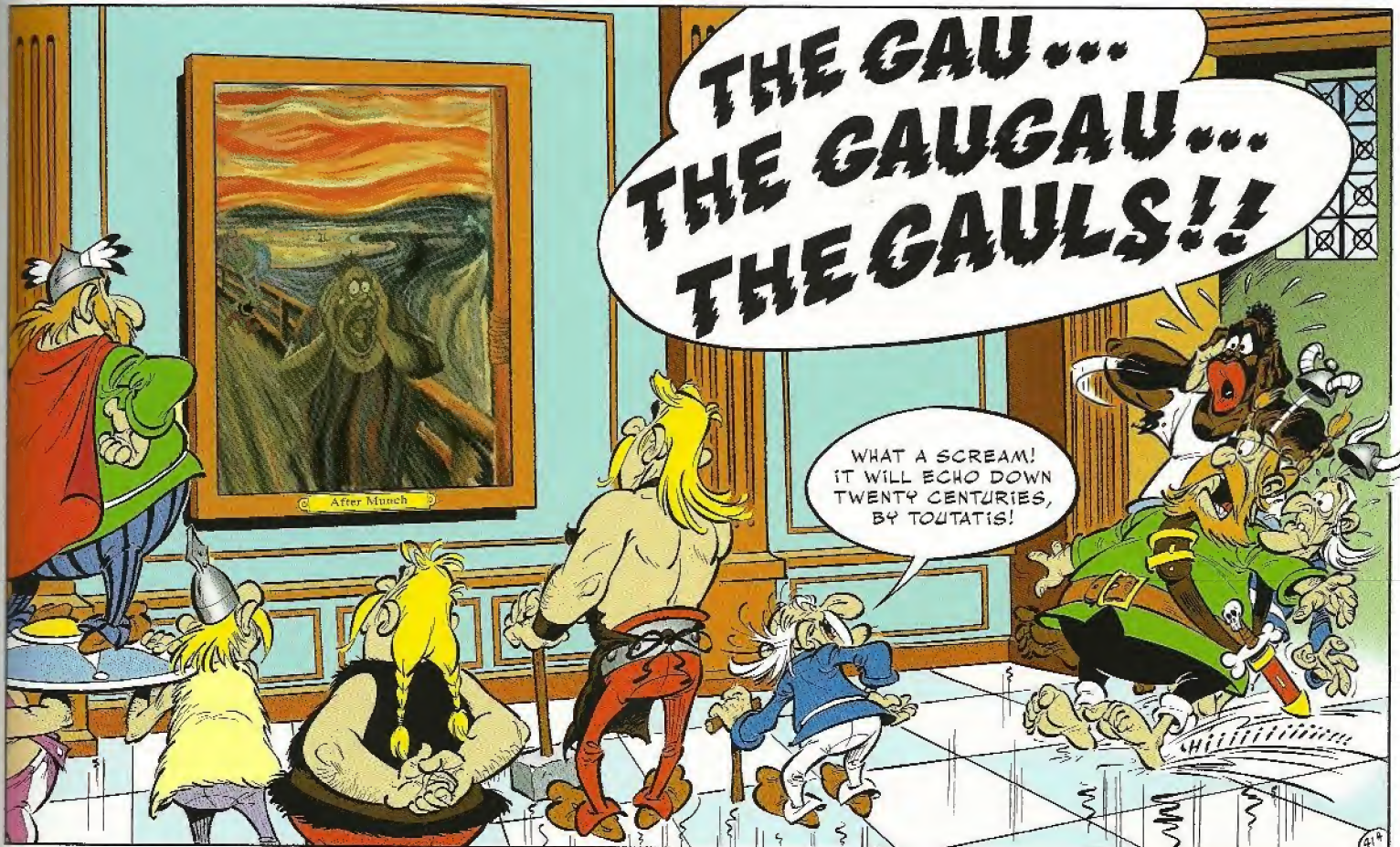
IN A  
MANNER OF  
FPEAKING!

After Delacroix

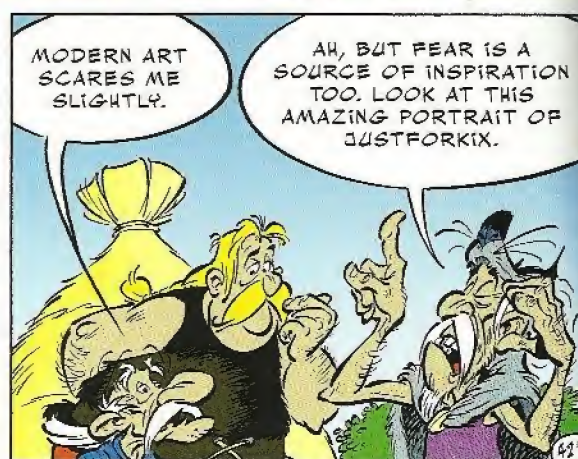














FURTHER ON, A PORTRAIT OF ASTERIX MADE UP OF ALL THE ITEMS BROUGHT BACK FROM HIS FOREIGN TRAVELS WILL BE A TALKING POINT.



DON'T YOU  
THINK THOSE  
EARS OF WHEAT  
LOOK A BIT  
CORN4?

MAYBE, BUT  
THE OBELISK  
WILL LEND HIM  
WINGS.

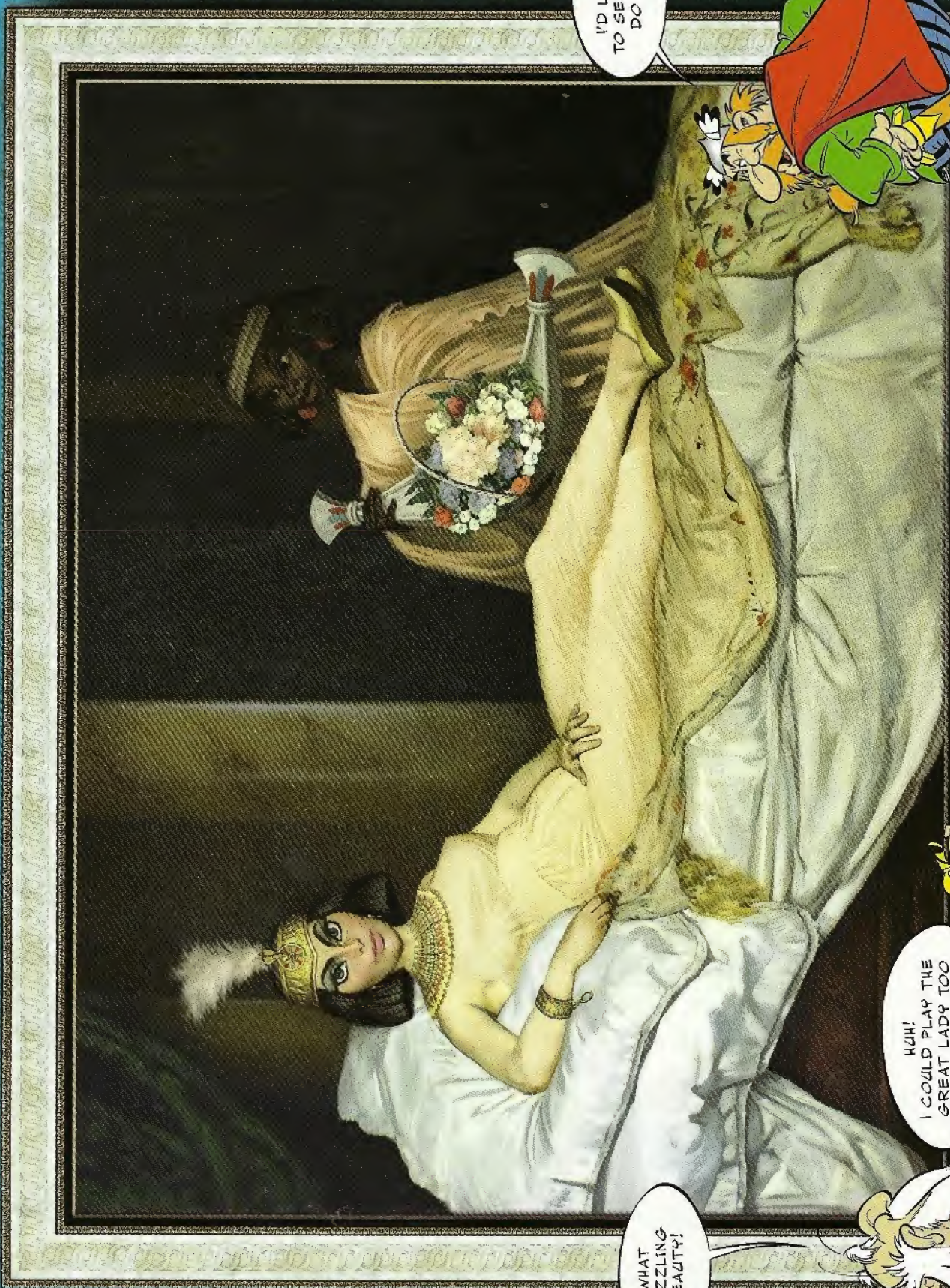
A FAN OF MY  
FISH AT LAST!  
IT'S GONE TO  
HIS HEAD!

## After Arcimboldo





THE SUMMIT MEETINGS OF THE ANCIENT  
WORLD DO NOT GO UNRECORDED.



After Manet

WHAT  
DAZZLING  
BEAUTY!

HUH!  
I COULD PLAY THE  
GREAT LADY TOO  
IF I WANTED TO ...

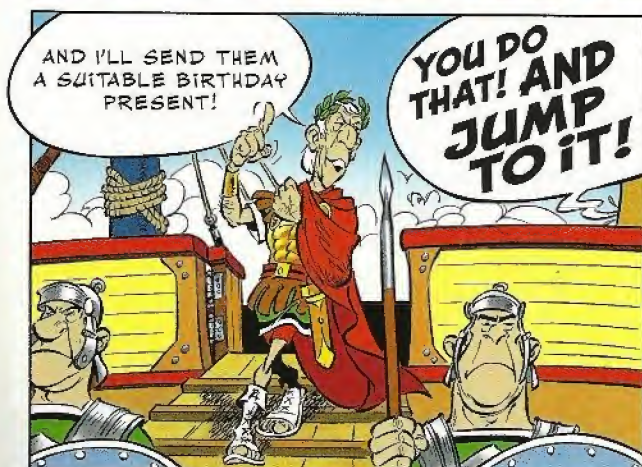
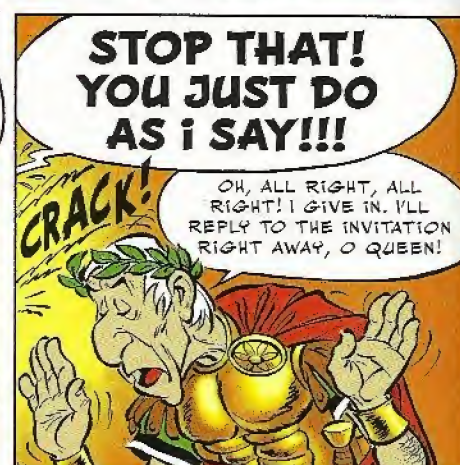
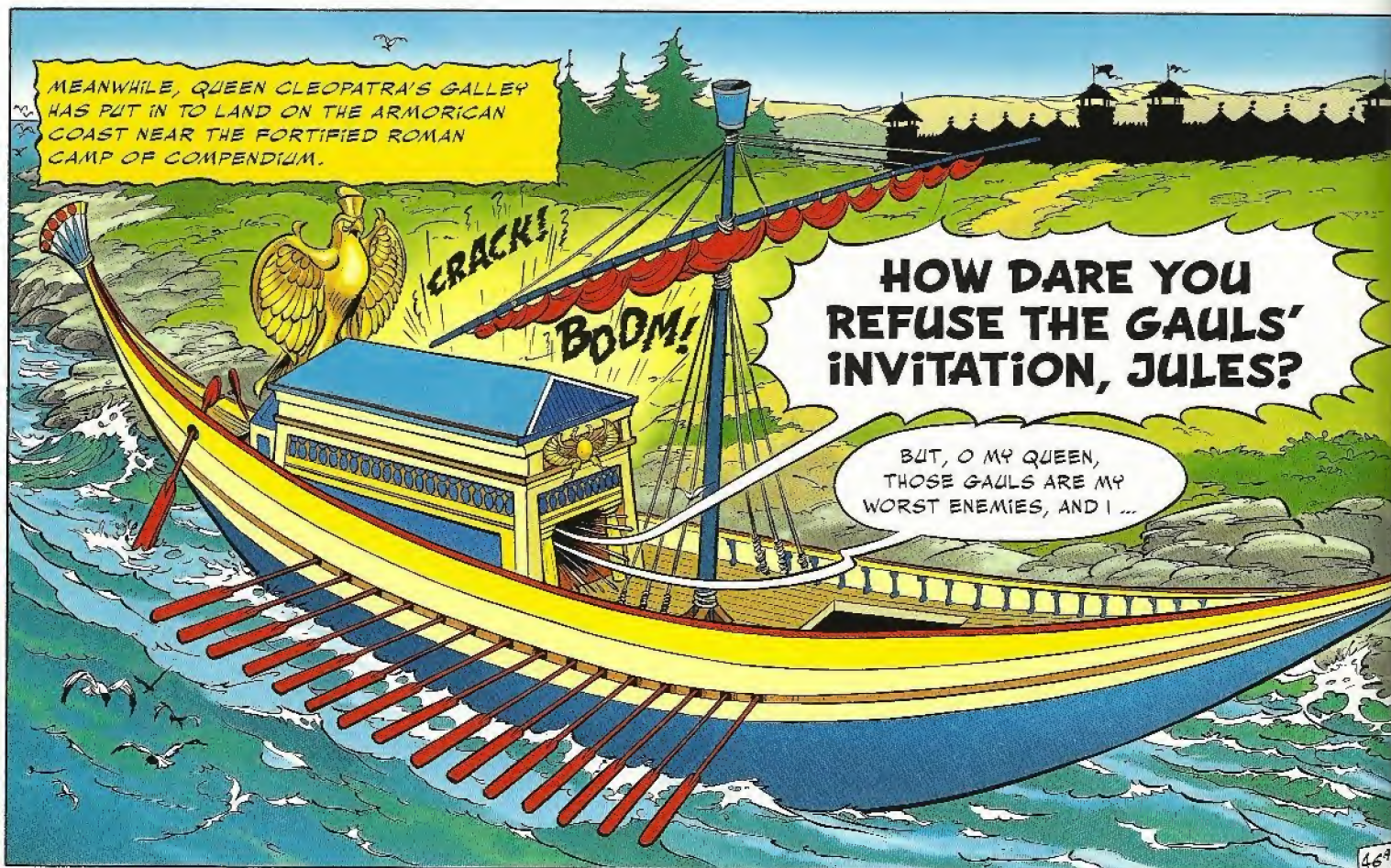
I'D LIKE  
TO SEE YOU  
DO IT!















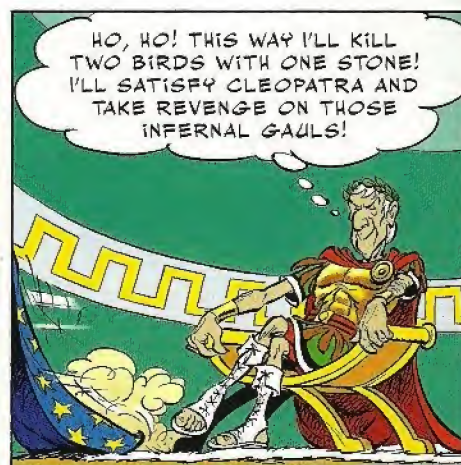
AT YOUR  
COMMAND, O  
GREAT CAESAR!

CHOLERAMORBUS,  
I AM GOING TO GIVE  
ASTERIX AND OBELIX A  
BIRTHDAY PRESENT THAT  
ONLY YOU CAN PREPARE  
FOR ME.



MY IDEA IS A JAR  
CONTAINING A CHOICE WINE ...  
ITS INGREDIENTS KNOWN TO  
NONE BUT YOU!

TEEHEE! TEEHEE!  
TEEHEE! YOU'LL  
BE SATISFIED,  
O SUBLIME  
CAESAR!



HO, HO! THIS WAY I'LL KILL  
TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!  
I'LL SATISFY CLEOPATRA AND  
TAKE REVENGE ON THOSE  
INFERNAL GAULS!



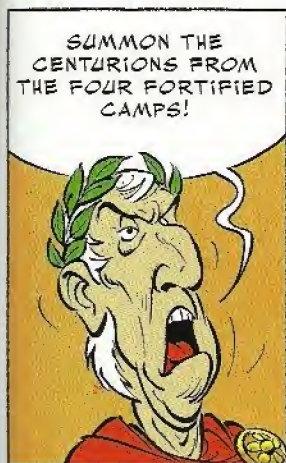
LATER ...

THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED,  
MOST GREAT CAESAR!  
A VINTAGE THAT WILL HAVE  
THOSE WHO TASTE IT ROLLING  
THEIR EYES! TEEHEE TEEHEE  
TEEHEE!!



FOR YOUR SERVICES,  
CHOLERAMORBUS!

MAY JUPITER  
PROTECT YOU TO THE  
END OF TIME, MOST  
SUBLIME CAESAR!



SUMMON THE  
CENTURIONS FROM  
THE FOUR FORTIFIED  
CAMPS!



AVE CAESAR! THOSE WHO  
ARE ABOUT TO SERVE YOU  
SALUTE YOU!

YES, AVE, AVE!  
I'M SENDING  
YOU ON A  
MISSION!



YOU ARE TO BE MY  
AMBASSADORS AND TAKE THIS  
JAR TO THE GAULISH VILLAGE!

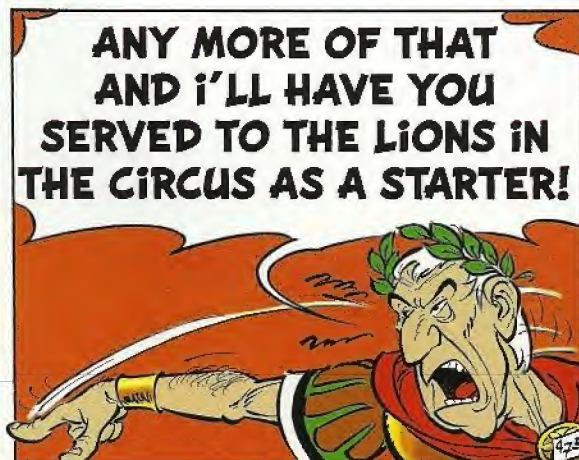


ER ... THE  
VILLAGE OF  
MADMEN?

THAT'S A ...  
KIND OF A  
DELICATE  
OPERATION!

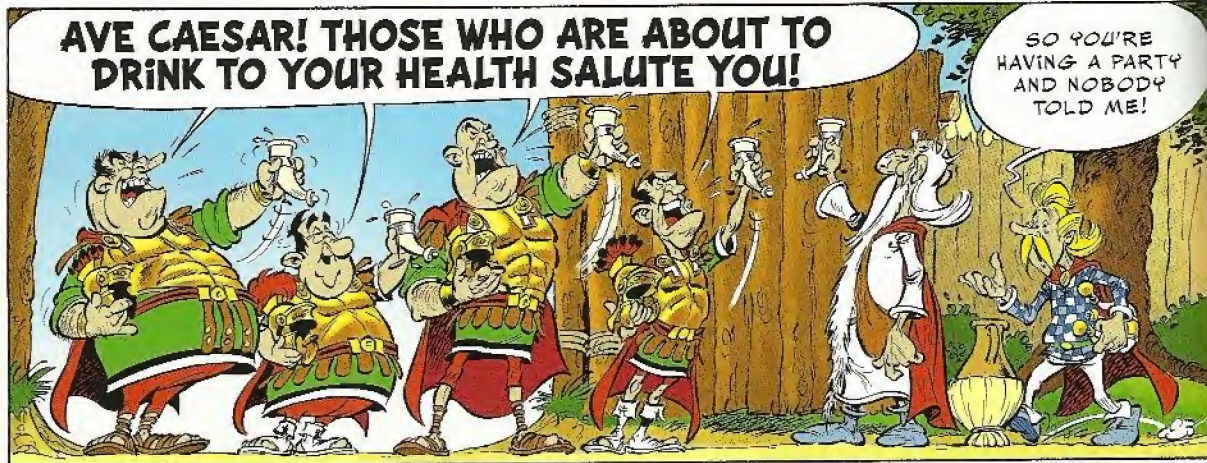
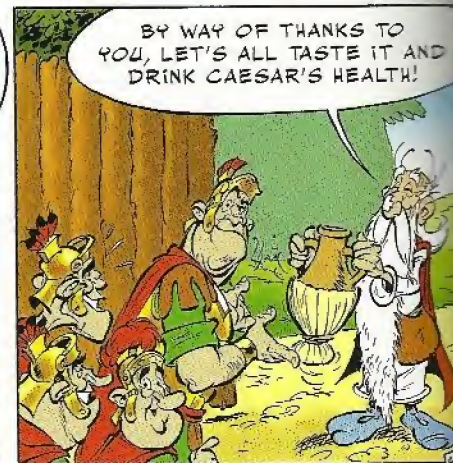
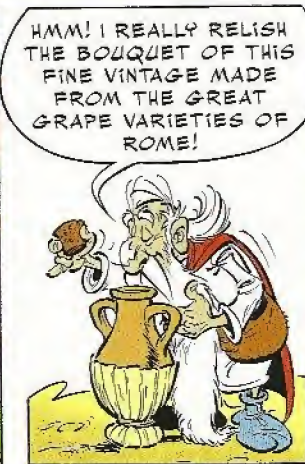
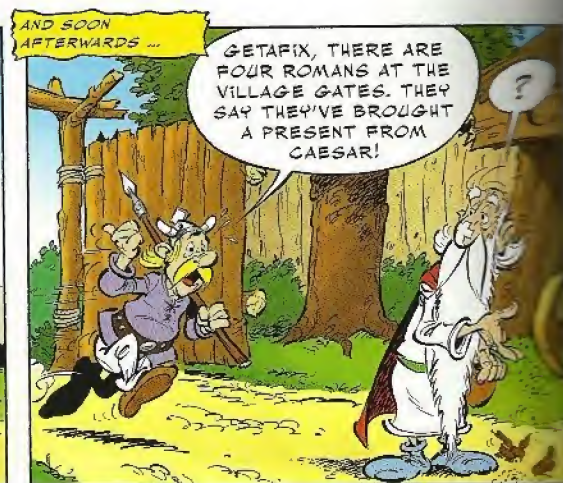
CAN WE AT  
LEAST TAKE OUR  
RESPECTIVE  
CENTURIES WITH  
US?

THE FACT IS I'M ...  
I'M NOT FEELING TOO  
WELL JUST NOW!

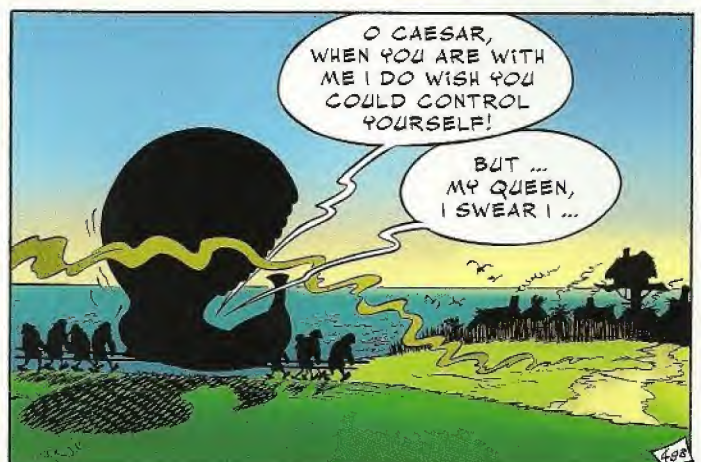
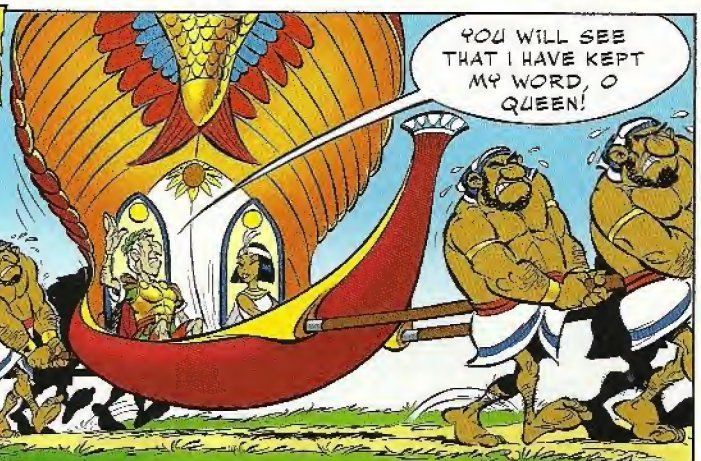
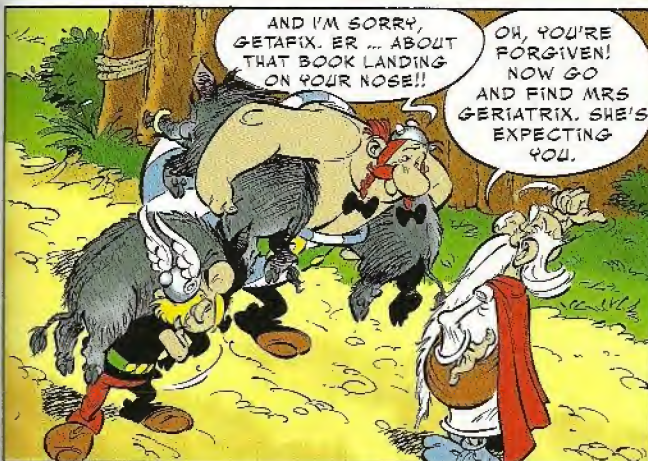
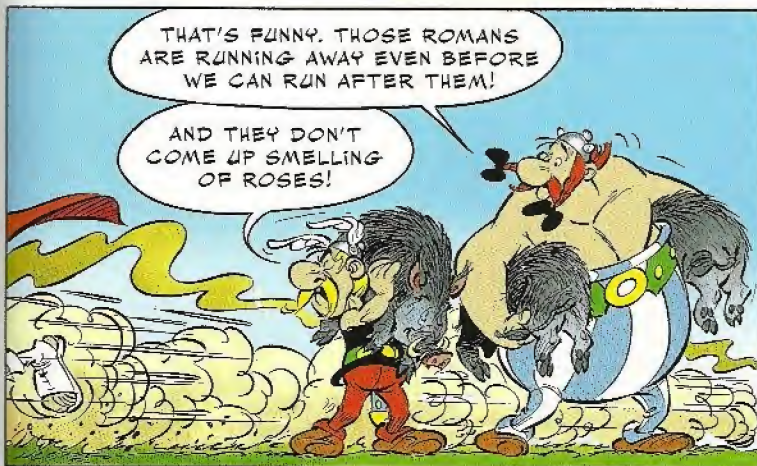


ANY MORE OF THAT  
AND I'LL HAVE YOU  
SERVED TO THE LIONS IN  
THE CIRCUS AS A STARTER!









\* MUCH LATER, JUST FOR REFERENCE, MUSSOLINI'S HENCHMEN USED TO SERVE RICIN OIL TO THEIR PRISONERS TO MAKE THEM CONFESS.



*At last all our friends are reunited in the village square,  
and the guests give the birthday boys a  
lovely surprise.*





